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NCERT apologises over 'inappropriate' content

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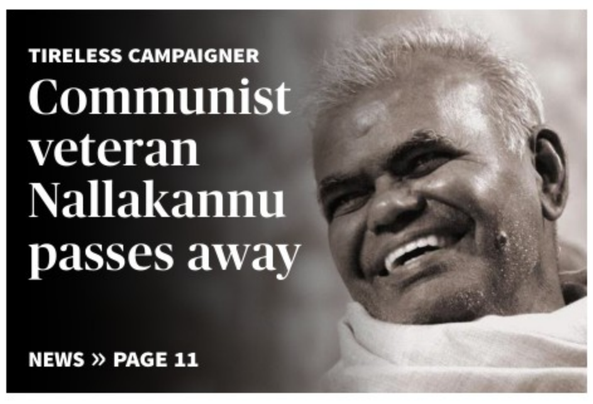

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Communist veteran Nallakannu passes away

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Arguments will centre on India's religious freedom jurisprudence

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New Zealand knocks out co-host Sri Lanka

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NEARBY

DKS bats for fresh faces in State Cabinet

BENGALURU
Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has supported the induction of new faces into the Cabinet. He said the party cannot rely on the old guard indefinitely and needs fresh thinking for its future.
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Body cameras must for passport verification

BENGALURU
To ensure transparency in passport verification, the Bengaluru Police has mandated the compulsory use of body-worn cameras by officers during the entire verification process. » PAGE 2

India 'stands firmly' with Israel, Modi tells Knesset

Prime Minister addresses the Israeli parliament as he begins visit to the West Asian country; India has an uncompromising policy of zero tolerance for terrorism with no double standard, he adds

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi being greeted by Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu at the Knesset in Jerusalem on Wednesday. ANI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his address to the Knesset on Wednesday, extended a firm hand of friendship to Israel and condemned the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023 as a "barbaric terrorist attack".

Speaking at the Israeli parliament, the Prime Minister supported the Gaza Peace Initiative saying it was necessary to "sustain" the process of peace building in the region.

"The Gaza Peace Initiative that was endorsed by the UN Security Council offers a pathway. India has expressed its firm support for the initiative... We believe that it holds the promise of a just and durable peace for all the people of the region, including by addressing the Palestine issue," he said.

Bilateral relations

Mr. Modi said India and Israel were working to enhance bilateral relations across sectors such as water management, agriculture, and talent partnership, adding that he had discussed "key developments" in the region with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"I also carry with me the deepest condolences of the people of India for every life lost and for every family whose world was shattered in the barbaric terrorist attack by Hamas on October 7," said Mr. Modi, adding that India stands with Israel "firmly, with full conviction".

In his second visit to Israel as Prime Minister, Mr. Modi reminded the members of the Knesset about India's own struggle against terrorism and cited the 26/11 terror attack in Mumbai that killed citizens of India as well as multiple other countries, including Israel.

"Like you, we have a consistent and uncompromising policy of zero tolerance for terrorism, with no double standard," the Prime Minister said.

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RAHUL TARGETS PM'S TRIP
» PAGE 11

Cases stall as judicial officers busy with SIR in West Bengal

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Judicial work in the district and metropolitan courts across West Bengal has been severely affected after hundreds of judicial officers were deployed to process nearly 50 lakh claims and objections under the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls ahead of the February 28 deadline.

Except for urgent matters and bail hearings, trials and regular proceedings – including in special courts such as those dealing with Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) cases – have been affected as judges undertake verification work.

Committees have been formed at the Calcutta High Court and district levels to reassign urgent cases to alternative courts, but litigants and judicial officers remain uncertain about when normal functioning will resume. Now that it has fallen to the judiciary to examine claims and objections, judicial officers have reached out to administrative complexes for the verification work.

Judicial crunch

- SC has directed judiciary to verify about **50 lakh** claims and objections in West Bengal
- Calcutta HC has deployed **294 judicial officers** for verifications
- Trials as well as other hearings before district courts and metropolitan courts in the State have **stalled following the deployment**

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ED files prosecution complaint against Ranya

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), through its Headquarters Investigation Unit-II, New Delhi, has filed a prosecution complaint under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, before the Special Court for PMLA cases in Bengaluru against Harshavardini Ranya alias Ranya Rao, Tarun Konduru, and Sahil Sakariya Jain in connection with the gold smuggling and money laundering case.

The ED initiated the probe based on the FIR dated March 7, 2025, registered by the CBI, AC-II, New Delhi, under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and the Prevention of Corruption Act, following a complaint by the DRI.

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VIT CHENNAI

THE HINDU GROUP

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Building on the resounding success of its inaugural edition, The Hindu, in partnership with VIT School of Law, VIT Chennai, presents Justice Unplugged 2026, now convening in New Delhi, the nation's constitutional and legal epicentre.

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Chepauk and its colourful legacy of delivering classics

The Indian team would hope to have another memorable outing at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium when it squares off against Zimbabwe in the T20 World Cup Super Eight encounter; a win will bring the Suryakumar-led side back on track in the global tournament

FILE PHOTO: R. RAGU

R. Kaushik
CHENNAI

There is an aura about the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium that's hard to express in words. Terms associated with Chepauk that one first heard on the radio - the V. Pattabhiraman Gate, the Wallajah Road End - surge to your mind as you negotiate the broad gates and cast your eyes on the lush-green, newly laid outfield which cuts a pretty picture.

The refurbished Madras Cricket Club serves as a reminder of the traditional sprucing itself up to keep in tune with the modern. The steepling new stand crammed with blue seats is another example of the necessity of having to embrace the new reality even if it is somewhat at the expense of spectator comfort. Rows of seats almost tumble over each other and negotiating the narrow passage to reach one's perch towards the end of a row is a huge challenge.

The famous tied Test

Think Chepauk, and the first thought is of the tied Test of September 1986. Nearly 40 years ago, to have to score 348 in a single day's play, and that too on the final day of a Test, was almost unheard of. That's the target Allan Border set Kapil Dev's men on September 22. India made a game fist of it with Sunil Gavaskar, who has lit up the venue with several incandescent efforts, leading the way. The little master top-scored with 90 as each of the top five made at least 39, and at 251 for three, an improbable victory appeared imminent.

Ray Bright, the left-arm spinner, then got into the act alongside Greg Matthews, the maverick off-spinner who preferred bowling with his Baggy Green on. Ravi Shastri held firm and Chetan Sharma weighed in with 23 but when Shivlal Yadav was ninth man dismissed, India needed four for victory with Maninder Singh joining Shastri. The latter was a master at playing the situation. Instead of going for the glory shot that might have brought about his downfall, he first ensured that India would not lose the game, leaving Maninder on strike to Matthews with the scores level.

As the off-spinner pinged the No. 11 on his pad, umpire Vikram Raju's right index finger shot skywards, upholding the appeal and sending one side into paroxysms of delight. The other's immediate reaction was disappointment; to this day, Shastri and Maninder insist there was an inside-edge, Raju is adamant there was no contact between bat and ball.

It doesn't matter anymore, does it? With that one act which brought an end to India's chase and a riveting Test match, Raju had formalised only the second 'tie' in the history of Test cricket. Australia had been involved in both games where the match had ended with the teams dead level in terms of runs scored when the dust had settled and the final wicket had fallen.

Chennai's knowledgeable crowd

India have endured numerous heartbreaks here, including a one-run loss to Australia the following year in the 50-over World Cup, and a 12-run defeat to Wasim Akram's men in Pakistan's first Test in India in nearly a dozen years. Over the years, the Chennai crowd has earned the reputation of being one of India's most knowledgeable and sporting groups. It lived up to that billing by applauding Pakistan, a gesture the visitors reciprocated by going on a victory lap around the ground that was received with a standing ovation.

Among India's fonder memories is a magnificent two-wicket win over Australia in March 2001, fashioned by the right arm of Harbhajan Singh and the magical wrists of V.V.S. Laxman which combined to orchestrate one of the greatest comebacks in the five-day game. Out for the count after a three-day walloping in Mumbai, India squared the series in a classic at the Eden Gardens - a Harbhajan hat-trick was matched and topped by Laxman's 281 and Rahul Dravid's 180 as they batted out the entire fourth day after the host trailed by 276 in the first innings.

India then completed a fightback for the ages at Chepauk, nailing a modest but tense chase as the shadows lengthened and hearts thudded furiously in one of the great advertisements for the format.

Platform for 50-over WC rampage

It's here that India kicked off their fabulous run in the 2023 50-over World Cup with a splendid six-wicket victory over Australia. Asked to scale down a modest 199, India were rocked by Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood, who fired out skipper Rohit Sharma, Ishan Kishan and Shreyas Iyer, all for ducks, with just two runs on the board.

There is no gainsaying how the match would have panned out had Mitchell Marsh, at square-leg, not put down Virat Kohli when the batter was on 12. Had the catch been completed, India would have been 20 for four. Kohli made Australia pay by putting on 165 for the fourth wicket with K.L. Rahul as India eventually cantered home with 52 deliveries to spare.

FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

That escape to victory was the start of a spectacular charge through the draw that took the Indians to the final with an all-win record. The title proved elusive with Travis Head lording the Ahmedabad exchanges and casting a collective pall of gloom over the entire nation, which quickly regrouped to applaud Rohit's team for the exhilarating brand of cricket they had showcased throughout the month and a half of the tournament.

Now, India must again use Chepauk to resuscitate their campaign at the T20 World Cup. Justified favouritism conferred on them coming into the tournament for their consistently commanding run in the 20-over game over the last year and a half, India were untroubled in the league phase despite barely touching third gear. But now, they are within three and a half hours of going out before the knockouts.

Do-or-die game for Surya's side

The defending champions were dealt a hammer blow by last edition's finalists South Africa in Ahmedabad on Sunday. Now, another African challenger looms in the form of Zimbabwe, a dark horse if ever there was one, which has punched above its weight and taken down Australia and Sri Lanka in the first stage.

What makes Zimbabwe's fairytale run even more endearing and remarkable is that they failed to even qualify for the 2024 edition of this tournament in the Americas.

They weren't expected, understandably but as it turns out now, naively, to advance to Super Eights but they proved that their takedown of Australia was no flash in the pan with a convincing victory over the co-hosts in Colombo to top Group B.

Sikandar Raza has run a tight ship and led by example, while the engine rooms of their charge have been Blessing Muzarabani at the top of the bowling tree and the intrepid Brian Bennett at the top of the batting group. After unbeaten efforts in his three previous outings of 48, 64 and 63 respectively, the 22-year-old Bennett finally had an average (180) to boast when he was dismissed for five against the West Indies in their opening Super Eight encounter in Mumbai on Monday. Muzarabani, the towering 29-year-old quick, has 11 wickets, the joint second-highest in the tournament alongside Marco Jansen, and has gone for only 7.06 runs per over.

Men who could spoil the day

Bennett and Muzarabani are the most obvious threats but the captain is a wonderfully skilled competitor who will undoubtedly fancy his off-spin to wreak damage in the first over of the Indian innings - the hosts have lost a wicket within the first six deliveries four times in their five encounters thus far. He can also give the ball a mighty whack, all of which means that India's task is anything but straightforward.

Suryakumar Yadav's men have had just one bad day in the office, but it was a horribly bad one, which has left them now dependent on other results going their way if they aspire to be in the hunt for the semifinals. Of course, the primary requirement for them, after the 76-run lashing at the Narendra Modi Stadium, is to win their two remaining games - the West Indies lie in store at the Eden on Sunday. Before the tournament, it was unthinkable that India wouldn't figure in the last four but that's now very much a possibility. The Super Eights is an unforgiving phase though unlike the knockouts, there is at least a nominal second chance.

India's batting has been the source of much debate and no little censure in the last few days. Much of it has to do with the unrealistic expectations from the outside, expectations that are not in sync with reality. Apart from the opening game against the United States where they found themselves in all kinds of trouble at 77 for six before scrambling to 161, they reached above-par scores, given the nature of the pitches, against Namibia (209), Pakistan (175) and the Netherlands (193).

Ahmedabad was a horror night. First, through defensive fields and bowling changes, India allowed South Africa to escape from 20 for three to 187 for seven. Then, the chase unravelled even before it started with Kishan and Tilak Varma perishing in the first seven balls and the luckless Abhishek Sharma also falling in the PowerPlay.

Hanging by a thread

Abhishek's travails are too obvious and well documented to bear repetition. Three ducks and a scratchy 15 have pushed him to the brink of losing his place in the XI, with Sanju Samson primed to open alongside Kishan. Abhishek might thus be deprived the chance of working his way back among the runs on what has consistently been the best scoring venue at the World Cup. But he will also understand that there is no place for sentiment and hand-holding anymore, not with India's campaign hanging by a slender, tenuous thread.

Even had they put it past South Africa, there would have been no scope for complacency or smugness against the Zimbabweans. Now, the Indians have even more reason to be fully switched on. Some two and a half weeks ago, Suryakumar had the opportunity to reprise the magic of Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Rohit and become only the third Indian captain to lift the T20 World Cup. Now, he is in danger of emulating Kohli from 2021 by helming a side that failed to reach the knockouts for the first time in three editions. That's how quickly things change in the 20-over game.

THE GIST

- Think Chepauk, and the first thought is of the tied Test of September 1986
- Among India's fonder memories is a magnificent two-wicket win over Australia in March 2001
- It's at this venue India kicked off their fabulous run in the 2023 50-over World Cup with a splendid victory over Australia. Now, India must again use Chepauk to resuscitate their campaign at the T20 World Cup

Body-worn cameras must for passport verification in city

According to a circular, all police officers and staff must mandatorily visit the residential address provided by the passport applicant and gather necessary inputs from neighbours and residents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a bid to ensure transparency and accountability in passport verification, the Bengaluru Police Commissionerate has issued fresh directions mandating the compulsory use of body-worn cameras by officers during the entire verification process.

According to a circular issued by Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh on Wednesday, all police officers and staff must mandatorily visit the residential address provided by the passport applicant and gather necessary inputs from neighbours and residents.

Officers have been strictly instructed not to summon applicants to police stations for verification under any circumstances.

All officers conducting passport verification are required to wear body-worn cameras from the beginning of the verification process until its completion. K. MURALI KUMAR

The order further states that adverse reports must not be filed without clear and substantiated evidence. Officials have been warned against expecting any favour, gratification, or engaging in harassment with the intention of demanding bribes. Unnecessary delays or causing inconvenience to applicants have also been expressly prohibited.

As per the new guidelines, applicants must be informed at least 24 hours in advance before officers visit for verification. The entire process must be recorded transparently.

All officers conducting passport verification are required to wear body-worn cameras from the beginning of the verification process until its completion.

Divisional Deputy Commissioners of Police have been directed to personally monitor compliance and submit weekly reports to the headquarters. Any relaxation of the prescribed norms will require prior written approval. The memorandum makes it clear that failure to adhere to the guidelines will invite disciplinary action.

"Constables on an average would get ₹200 to ₹1,000 depending on the area and person's profile. There are some cases where the police would file adverse reports to trouble the applicant. Body-worn cameras will be the solution for all these problems," said a senior officer.

Mr. Singh told *The Hindu* that body-worn cameras have been made compulsory to bring transparency and avoid inordinate delays in the verification process.

The circular was issued based on the instructions of M.A. Saleem, Director-General and Inspector-General of Police (DG&IGP). In his circular issued to all the unit heads, Mr. Saleem categorically warned that adverse remarks without proof are strictly prohibited.

ABVP activists booked for trespass, assault and property damage at Azim Premji varsity

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru police have registered a case against Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) members under relevant sections pertaining to unlawful assembly, trespass, assault, criminal intimidation, and property damage. This comes a day after around 25 activists allegedly barged into Azim Premji University, created a ruckus on the campus, and assaulted security personnel and a student.

According to the complaint lodged by S. Wilson, security manager of the university, a group gathered unlawfully and forcibly entered the college premises. When security staff attempted to stop them, the activists allegedly attacked them, abused them verbally, and issued life threats.

In the incident, six security guards and one student sustained injuries. The group also allegedly damaged the university's name board and property before leaving the campus.

Investigations are under way to ascertain how the protest was organised, and whether others were involved in instigating or supporting the incident.

Two arrested for impersonating GST officials

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Banashankari police arrested two housekeeping staff for allegedly impersonating Central government officials and extorting ₹5 lakh from a gutkha businessman, officials said on Wednesday.

The accused have been identified as Nagaraju P., 37, and Dadapeer Ballari, 35, who were working as outsourced housekeeping staff at the Office of the Principal Commissioner of Central Tax in Bengaluru.

According to police, acting on specific inputs, vigilance officers of the department recently searched the rooms within the office premises, where the duo was staying. During the search, officials allegedly recovered ₹1 lakh in cash from Ballari and ₹1.5 lakh from Nagaraju.

Further searches led to the seizure of three fake identity cards bearing the name "Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, Office of the Principal Commissioner of Central Tax (GST), Bengaluru West Commissionerate". Officials recovered copies of six fake search warrants from their possession.

During detailed interrogation, the accused reportedly confessed that on January 10, they posed as officials from the GST office and extorted ₹5 lakh from a gutkha businessman in Peenya by threatening action.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client propose to purchase a property i.e., the Schedule Property from **Sri. P. RAMAKRISHNAIAH,** aged about 65 years, S/o. Sri. Puttalingaiah, residing at No.40, 7h Main, 19th 'D' Cross, BTM 2nd Stage, Near Business Academy College, **BANGALORE-560076** and he represented to my client that he is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property described below with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same and no other person/s has/have any right, title, interest or claim of whatsoever over the same and the property is free from all encumbrances, charges, mortgage and lien and he has not entered into any Agreement for Sale or any other commitment in respect thereof.

Any person having any right, title, interest or whatsoever claim against the Schedule Property or having any objection of whatsoever nature to the proposed transaction may, within **10 DAYS** hereof, lodge with us his/her/their/its claim in writing in this behalf with the relevant documentary proof in support of such right, title, interest or claim or objection. If no such claim or objection is received within the said period, my client will presume that no person has any such claim and will proceed with the transaction.

: SCHEDULE PROPERTY :

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing **Site No.40** presently the BBMP Ward No.176, BTM Layout, Bangalore assigned **Property No.40/53 and e-PID No.1486552150,** in Sy No.44/2, New Gramathana Khata No.256/2A, situated at **Naianppa Setty Palya, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-560076,** measuring East to West : 40'-0" feet and North to South:30'-0" feet, with RCC roofed house consisting Ground, First and Second Floor Floor and bounded on: **East by : Site No.41, West by : Road, North by : Site No.33, South by :Site No.45.**

Srinivasa S.A., Advocate
No.79/B, 7th Main, 50 feet Road,
BSK 1st Stage, Bangalore-560 050.
Mob: 9008003449
E-mail : srinilegals@gmail.com
Place : Bangalore Date : 26-02-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are herby notified that my client **Smt.Renuka** W/o M.Muniyappa is the absolute owner of residential Site No. 355/18, Measurement 36*35 (1260 Square Feet) and Site No. 355/19, Measurement 36*35 (1260 Square Feet) Janjaru (ಜಂಜರು) No. 369,situated at Kalkunte agrahara Village, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. and same as been purchased from Sri. Ayub Khan under Sale Deed dated:19/07/2006. Whereas on 28/01/2024, my client has lost orginal Sale Deed Dated: 19/07/2006, Doc. No.03207/2006-07, C.D.No.HSKD68 and my client has lost/misplaced the above-mentioned Original Document pertaining to the above said property. And our client has lodged a police complaint before the Police station unit on 28/01/2026.

Any persons who holding/finding or in possession of said Sale deeds documents or tittle deeds should intimate to undersigned and if any person, Bank financial institution having any claim or right in respect of the said properties by way of Sale, Mortgage, Lease, Lien is hereby called upon to intimate to undersigned within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice and for such claim of any with all supporting documents failing which the transaction in favour my client shall be completed without reference to such claim and if any claims, transactions or if any such person shall be treated as waived and not binding on my client.

SHARATH K .M ADVOCATE
Yashas Law Firm, # 19/3, Ground floor
Railway Parallel Road, Nehrunagar,
Seshadripuram, Bangaluru-560020
Phone.No.9964651824

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sri. Patric Tonni S/o. Sri. Helen Mary has interested in purchasing the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration from its owner Smt. K. Krishnaveni W/o. Sri. K. Srinivasulu, Residing at House No. 3, Sri. Bhuvaneswari Nilaya, 15th Cross, Ramaswamy Layout, Lakkasandra, Bangalore- 560 030.

If any persons, banks, financial institutions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Site No. 83, Village Panchayata Khata No. 117/83, PID. No. 150200102800901309, layout approval No. APA/LAO/96/2008-09 dated 01-07-2010 formed in the converted land bearing Sy. No. 78/1, situated at Haragadde Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, measuring East to West 18.29 Mtrs. and North to South 12.19 Mtrs., totally measuring 222.95 Sq mts. The Site is bounded as follows : East by : Road, West by: Site No. 67 & 68, North by : Site No.82, South by: Site No.84.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B, & B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates, #1010, 2nd Floor, 7th A Main Road, 1st Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560034, Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
Bangalore, Date : 25-02-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **SYED ABDUL KAREEM MAJID** S/o Syed Abdul Wajeed, Aged about-46 years, Residing at No.45, 4th Cross, Govindpura Main Road, Near Bangalore Public School, Umar Nagar, Bengalurut-560045. (Aadhaar No. 8538 2295 6032) My client said that he is the absolute owner/ lawful beneficiary of the property situated at bearing Sy.No.83/5, Building/ Site No.14, Byraveshwara Layout, Nagawara, Thanisandra, Next to Manyta Tech Park, Bengaluru-560045 having acquired valid title through Registered documents That the original Sale Deed and Gift Deed executed in my favour on 24.06.1985 and 13.09.2012, registered as Documents are as follows:

(i) Sale Deed bearing Document No.1892/1985-86 Book-1, Volume No.3201, Pages 241 to 247 Dated: 24.06.1985 Registered before the Office of the Joint Sub-Registrar, Madras North, Tamil Nadu.

(ii) Gift Deed bearing Document No. 02996/2012-13, Book-1, Stored in CD No. KCHD110, dated: 13.09.2012, Registered before the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Gandhinagar (Kacharakanahalli), Bengaluru, above-mentioned original Sale Deed and original Gift Deed have been lost/misplaced on or about 05/02/2026 at Govindapura Main Road, Bengaluru-560045.

After diligent search the same could not be traced till date. My client lodged a complaint regarding the loss of the said documents with the Govindapur Police Station Bengaluru City,, vide Complaint No. **LOST REPORT NO. 2050159/2026 Dated: 07/02/2026.**

If anybody is having any right, title, interest, claim or objection for the same, they shall file their objection with documents before the undersigned within **7 days** from the date of this public notice, failing which our client will proceed further and purchase the said Schedule Property.

BIDDAPPA & JAIN
Advocate & Consultants
337, 338, First Floor, Prabhat Complex
K.G. Road, Bangalore-560009

GOVERNMETN OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I
BENGALURU, KARNATAKA
4th Floor, BSNL Building, Telephone House, Rajnhavan Road, Bengaluru-560001

PROCLAMATION OF SALE -CUM E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
(under Rule 52(2) of second schedule to the Income Tax act .1961 read with the Recovery of debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993)
R.C No. 14219/2018 in O.A No. 394/2017
UCO Bank, Asset Management Branch
V/s
M/s. Pranee Infrastructure Pvt Ltd and others

To:
1. **M/s. Pranee Infrastructure Pvt Ltd,** #108, 4th Cross, Chikkamariah Layout, JKT Halli, Akshaya Nagar Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore-560016. Represented by its Director: Mr. Kalla Venkateswarlu
2. **Mr. Kalla Venkateswarlu S/o Alluraiah K** #108, 4th Cross, Chikkamariah Layout, JKT Halli, Akshaya Nagar, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore-560016
3. **Mrs. Kalla Sridevi W/o Mr. Kalla Venkateswarlu** #108, 4th Cross, Chikkamariah Layout, JKT Halli, Akshaya Nagar, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore-560016
4. **M/s Hebron Properties Pvt Ltd.** No.5, AC-712, 5th 'A' Cross, 4th Floor, HRBR Layout, First Block, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043. Represented by its Director: Mr. Satish Koshy **...Defendants/Certified Debtors**

The under mentioned property will be sold by **'online e-auction'** through website: http://drt.auctiontiger.net on **27.03.2026** for recovery of an amount of **Rs.3,43,49,657/- (Rupees Three Crores Forty Three Lakhs Forty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Seven Only)** along with costs, expenses and interest as stated in the Recovery Certificate from the Certified Debtors, from the date of filing of OA, till the date of final realization.

Date and Time of Auction	:	27.03.2026 From 11.30 AM to 12.30 PM
Reserve Price	:	Rs.3,51,51,675/-
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD):		Rs.35,15,167.50/-
Bid Increment Amount	:	Rs.50,000/-
Last Date & Time of e-Tender form & EMD submission:		25.03.2026 by 3.00 PM

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: All the piece and parcel of immovable Property bearing residential Villa No.72, Type B2, being constructed on the Property bearing Sy. No. 60,61,62 & 69, Khatha No. 91/60, 61, 62 & 69, Halehalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru measuring 5100 Sq Ft of super built up area along with car parking area and proportionate share in common areas such as passages, garden etc having 1.247% of undivided share from M/s Hebron Properties Pvt Ltd and bounded on **East By :** Pathway, **West By :** Drive way/Road, **North By :** Pathway/Compound Wall, **South By :** Villa No. 71 Type B2.

For Detailed terms and conditions of sale visit website **http://drt.auctiontiger.net.** For further details contact e-mail Id: **support@auctiontiger.net** and contact numbers **9265562821, 9265562818, 9265562819.** Intending bidders/participants are advised to contact **Mr. Ashok Kumar Tripathy, Chief Manager UCO Bank, Asset Management Branch,** #13/22, 1st Floor, UCO Bank Building, KG Road, Bangalore-560009 **(Contact Mobile No. 8327799501 and e-mail id: banamb@uco.bank.in)** before date of auction sale, for detail terms and conditions.

Given under my hand and the seal on this 18th day of February 2026 at Bengaluru.
Sd/-
Recovery Officer-I, DRT-I, Bengaluru

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Phone No. 080-26541432. e-mail id : bo099010@pnb.bank.in

NOTICE TO LOCKER HIRERS

We hereby notify the Bank's intention to break open the following lockers for recovery of locker rent arrears as per Bank's laid down norms.
The lessee to remit arrears on or before **29.05.2026** to avoid further proceeding.

SL No	Locker No	Arrears (Rs.)	Name	Address
1	DD109925	Rs.11,160.01/- as on 31.01.2026	Sandeep M C	134/A,30th A Cross, Thilak Nagar, Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560041.

Place : Bangalore **Manager**
Date : 26.02.2026 **Punjab National Bank**

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक punjab national bank
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Branch (B/o 462500) : SPPS Malleshwaram,
8th Main, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore- 560 055. Mail:bo4625@pnb.bank.in

NOTICE TO LOCKER HIRERS

We hereby notify the Bank's intention to break open the following lockers for recovery of locker rent arrears for more than 3 (three) years as well as locker remains inoperative (irrespective of whether rent is paid or not) a period of 7 (seven) years or more and the customer cannot be located by the Bank. The lessee to visit the branch on or before **01-06-2026** (date to be specified by giving 3 months) to avoid further proceeding.

SL No	Locker No	Name	Address	Rent Arrear
1	AA00031	TEENA DHANESH SHAH & HEERA NAGDA	No- 16, Deluxe House, 1st Floor, 1st Cross, Kalasipalyam New Extn, Near Sj Park Police Station, Bangalore, Karnataka- 560 002.	Rs. 14,146.00
2	BB00091	S R Gayathri & C N Padmini	MF 12/9 L Block Mig Flats, Nandini Layout Bangalore, Karnataka- 560 096	Rs. 17,153.00

Place : Bangalore **Manager**
Date : 25.02.2026 **Punjab National Bank**

Uttarakhand Subordinate Service Selection Commission Dehradun.
Raipur-Thano Road, near Maharana Pratap Sports College,
Post office - Raipur , Dehradun - 248008
Phone - 9520991172. Email - chayanayog@gmail.com

Tender Notice No. 4343/2025-26 Date 25.02.2026

TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are invited under two bid systems i.e. Part I- Technical Bid and Part II Financial Bid from eligible Agencies/Firms having adequate experience and credentials in the concerned fields of Services/work, for the item mentioned below to enter into a contract for meeting the Uttrakhand Subordinate Service Selection Commission Dehradun requirements:-

Important Dates & Description		
Description of Services:- Empanelment Of Agencies to provide Security Ancillary services during multiple examination being conducted by UTTARAKHAND SUBORDINATE SERVICE SELECTION COMMISSION		
a.	Date of Publishing tender online on (http://www.uktenders. gov.in)	25/02/2026
b.	Tender Fee	INR 5,000 only (Excluded 18% G.S.T)
c.	Date of Pre-bid meeting	27/02/2026 at 03:00PM
d.	Start & Last date & time of Bid Submission	06/03/2026 To 23/03/2026 upto 12:00 A.M.
e.	Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	23/03/2026 at 1:00 PM

After submission of the above online bid at the e-tender portal, the bidder is required to submit a hard copy of all supporting tender documents related to the technical bid, as uploaded at the time of online bid, to Secretary, UKSSSC, Dehradun by post/by hand by dated-23.03.2026 till12:00 PM, sealed in an envelope super scribed as Detail Description of Services. The bid of those bidders shall be rejected whose hard copy of all supporting tender documents related to the technical bid, as uploaded at the time of online bid are not received or are received after the due date and time. If required any query contact UKSSSC e-mail: usssc15@gmail.com

Secretary

महाराष्ट्र शासन
महसुल व वनविभाग, महाराष्ट्र राज्य,
ई-निविदा सुचना क्रमांक ०६, ०७, ०८/२०२५-२६

उपवनसंरक्षक पुसद वनविभाग, पुसद यांचे वतीने कॅम्पा योजने अंतर्गत विविध कामांकरीता रक्कम रू. १३.४९ कोटी ची ई-निविदा पध्दतीने महाराष्ट्र शासनाचे सक्षम प्राधिकरणाकडे योग्य त्या वर्गातील **पंजीबध्द कंत्राटदार, यवतमाळ जिल्ह्यातील सुक्षिशित बेरोजगार अभियंता व यवतमाळ जिल्हयातील मजुर कामगार सहकारी संस्था** यांचेकडुन ई-निविदा मागविण्यात येत आहे. ई-निविदेचा विस्तृत नमुना व कामाचा तपशील तसेच सविस्तर अटी व शर्ती शुध्दीपत्रके महाराष्ट्र शासनाच्या **www.mahatenders.gov.in** या संकेतस्थळावर प्रसिध्द करण्यात आलेली आहे. त्यानुसार कागदपत्राची पुर्तता करावी.

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१	ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रसिध्द करणे	दिनांक २५.०२.२०२६ सकाळी ११.०० वाजेपासुन
२	ऑनलाईन निविदा सादर करण्याचा कालावधी	दिनांक २५.०२.२०२६ सकाळी ११.०० वाजेपासुन दिनांक ०५.०३.२०२६ सायंकाळी ०५.०० वाजेपर्यंत
३	ऑनलाईन निविदा उघडणे	दिनांक ०६.०३.२०२६ रोजी सायंकाळी ०५.०० वाजता

अटी व शर्ती : महाराष्ट्र शासनाचे **www.mahatenders.gov.in** व **www.mahaforest.gov.in** या संकेतस्थळावर पहावयास मिळेल.

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DGIPR/2025-26/6128

NIC एनआईसी National Informatics Centre

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National Informatics Centre
इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स एवं सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय
Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology
भारत सरकार
Government of India
ए-ब्लॉक, सीजीओ कॉम्प्लेक्स, लोधी रोड, नई दिल्ली-110003
A-Block, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

विज्ञापन क्रमांक : एनआईसी/एसटीए/2026/2
Advertisement No. : NIC/STA/2026/2

राष्ट्रीय सूचना विज्ञान केंद्र (एनआईसी) वेतन स्तर-6 (₹35400 – ₹112400) में वैज्ञानिक/तकनीकी सहायक-'ए' (समूह 'बी', गैर-राजपत्रित विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी पद) के पद पर सीधी भर्ती के लिए इच्छुक उम्मीदवारों से ऑनलाइन आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है।

The National Informatics Centre (NIC) invites online applications from interested candidates for direct recruitment to the post of Scientific/Technical Assistant-'A' (Group 'B', Non-Gazetted S&T post) in Pay Level-6 (₹35400 – ₹112400).

2. **रिक्तियों की संख्या / Number of Vacancies**: 376 पद / posts
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अनुसूचित जनजाति / Schedule Tribe - 28,
अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग (एनसीएल) Other Backward Class (NCL) - 101,
आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्ग / Economically Weaker Section – 37, और / and
मानक विकलांगता वाले व्यक्ति / Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (क्षैतिज आरक्षण / Horizontal Reservation) – 18*
*includes 3 backlog vacancies

3. **आवश्यक शैक्षणिक योग्यता / Essential Educational Qualification:**

डिग्री / Degree	क्षेत्र (एकल या संयोजन में) / Field (single or in combination)
एम.एससी./एमएस/ एमसीए/बी.ई./बी.टेक उत्तीर्ण होना अनिवार्य है।	इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और संचार, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और दूरसंचार, कंप्यूटर विज्ञान, कंप्यूटर और नेटवर्किंग सुरक्षा, सॉफ्टवेयर सिस्टम, सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी, सूचना विज्ञान।
A Pass in M.Sc./MS/MCA/B.E./B.Tech.	Electronics, Electronics and Communication, Electronics & Telecommunication, Computer Sciences, Computer and Networking Security, Software System, Information Technology, Informatics.

4. वे उम्मीदवार जिनके पास आवश्यक शैक्षणिक योग्यता और वर्ष 2024/2025/2026 के लिए वैध GATE स्कोर हैं, वे निम्नलिखित विषयों में आवेदन करने के पात्र हैं:
Candidates possessing the essential educational qualification and valid GATE Scores for the year 2024 / 2025 / 2026 in the following disciplines are eligible to apply:

(i) कंप्यूटर विज्ञान एवं सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी (सीएस) / Computer Science and Information Technology (CS);
(ii) इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स एवं संचार अभियांत्रिकी (ईसी) / Electronics & Communication Engineering (EC); और / and
(iii) डेटा साइंस और आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (डीए) / Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (DA).

5 विस्तृत विज्ञापन एनआईसी की वेबसाइट https://recruitment.nic.in पर गेट-2026 के परिणाम की घोषणा की तारीख से लगभग 10 दिनों के भीतर उपलब्ध होगा ।
The detailed advertisement will be available on NIC website https://recruitment.nic.in tentatively within 10 days from the date of announcement of result of GATE-2026.

6. एनआईसी बिना कोई कारण बताए भर्ती प्रक्रिया में संशोधन/रद्द करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित रखता है।
NIC reserves the right to modify / cancel the recruitment process without assigning any reason.

7. कोई भी अतिरिक्त जानकारी/संशोधन/परिशिष्ट केवल एनआईसी भर्ती वेबसाइट पर ही अपलोड किया जाएगा।
Any further information / corrigendum / addendum would be uploaded only on the NIC recruitment website.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KAMALA K, Mother of Arun Lal Prasad K, R/o Quarter No.133/8, Red Quarters, Command Hospital Airforce, Cambridge Road, Halasuru, Bengaluru-560007 have changed my name from Kamala K to Kamala Karunakaran vide affidavit dt: 25.02.2026 sworn before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru

I, MOHAMMED Altaf S/o Nalmandi Akbar Basha residing at No. 399, 10th Cross, Bharath Matha Layout, Venkatesh Puram, Bengaluru-560045 have changed my name to Mohammed Althaf Pasha Vide affidavit dated 25-02-2026 before Meer Hassan Notary, Bengaluru.

I, CHANDRA E mother of Kamaraj E (son presently posted in Bengaluru) resident of No. 25, Subramaniya Siva Nagar, Villianur, Pondicherry- 605110 today in Bengaluru, have changed my name from Chandra E to Chandira Vide Affidavit Dated 21-02-2026 Before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru

I, ELUMALAI G father of Kamaraj E (son presently posted in Bengaluru) resident of No. 25, Subramaniya Siva Nagar, Villianur, Pondicherry - 605110 have changed my name from Elumalai G to G Elumalai Vide Affidavit Dated 21-02-2026 Before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru

I, MALATHY Ranganathan W/o Sathyanarayana residing at No.07, SLN Meadows Residential Layout, Horamavu Main Road, Bengaluru-560043 have changed my name to Malathy Sathyanarayana Vide affidavit dated 25/02/2026 before Meer Hassan Notary Bengaluru.

I, Zakir Hussain Mohamed Ibrahim S/O, Mohamed Ibrahim R/o No.63, 2nd Cross, Babasahebarapalya, Kengeri, Bengaluru - 560060 have changed my name to Zakir Hussain for all purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SRIHARI BHAT,** S/o Shreenivas, age 28 years, R/at flat #132, Ground Floor, Block-1, Mahaveer Calyx Apartment, BTM 4th Stage, Nyannapannahalli Main Road, Bengaluru-560 076 do hereby declare that I have changed my name **SRIHARI** (old name) to **SRIHARI BHAT** (new name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **SRIHARI BHAT** (new name) for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 25-2-2026, sworn before Advocate and notary **GANGARAJU .B.N** at Bangalore.

PERSONAL

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving

Grateful thanks to Miraculous Infant Jesus for favours received
- Geetha

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHIFTING OF PREMISES

The Oriental Insurance Co.Ltd
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BO BENGALURU - 08
New Address
 # 1188, I Floor, 26th Main Ragigudda Temple Main Road 9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560041
Old Address : No. 20, 2nd Floor, 9th Main, opposite Pai Viceroy Hotel, Jayanagar, III Block, Bangalore - 560011
Contact No: 9538075656

BO MYSURU - 2
New Address
1st Floor, Navratna Complex 444, 6th Main, M H Ambarish Road, Vijaya Nagar, 1st Stage, Mysore - 560017
Old Address : No.38/1E, 2nd Floor, Chamaraja, Double Road,Mysore - 570024
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Craig the elephant, and the promise and problem of wildlife 'superstars'

When a famous animal suffers, people call for it to be saved, sometimes followed by demands for its lifelong care; such interventions rarely hold any conservation value; unless a species is critically endangered, saving an individual rarely changes the trends that matter to its population as a whole

Ipsita Herlekar

Wild fame: A photo of Craig the elephant in 2021, when he was 49 years old. KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICE

Early this year, when Craig, one of Africa's "super tusker" elephants, died in Kenya's Amboseli National Park, tributes poured in from across the world. Photographs of his very large tusks, nearly brushing the ground as he walked with Mount Kilimanjaro in the background, resurfaced online. Tourists shared memories of sightings and safari guides recalled their encounters with the regal tusker, who was known for his patient, calm demeanour.

Craig was not just an elephant. He had become a global symbol of wilderness, survival, tourism, and wildlife conservation.

An elephant with tusks that size is extraordinarily rare today. Decades of ivory poaching have selectively removed individuals with large tusks, leaving behind animals with less ivory. Craig therefore represented a genetic lineage that is rapidly disappearing. But he was also something else: a source of livelihood for many. Safaris, lodges, photographers, and local communities all benefited from the tourists he attracted. People travelled across continents hoping for a glimpse of him.

Yet his story also reveals something people often overlook. While individual animals can inspire love and attention, conservation itself does not operate at the level of individuals. It operates at the level of populations, habitats, and ecosystems.

Power of a name

Craig's fame began with something simple: his name. Born into a closely observed herd studied for decades by biologist Cynthia Moss, he grew up in the public eye.

Naming wild animals transforms them from anonymous members of a species into characters in a story. Once an animal has a name, people follow its life, celebrate its milestones, and mourn its death. They return to a landscape hoping to see a familiar face again. Over time, public affection for an individual can, conservationists hope, grow into curiosity about the species and the ecosystem it inhabits.

Zoos have long understood this connection. 'Star' animals anchor public attention, drive visitor numbers, and help raise funds for conservation and education. A recent example is Pesto, the king penguin chick at the Sea Life Aquarium in Melbourne, Australia, whose extraordinary size made him a viral sensation. His popularity translated into a significant boost in visits, reportedly increasing visitor footfall by more than 30%. Other national parks and protected areas have also adopted the same paradigm through tourism, documentaries, and social media.

The practice of naming wild individuals became popular in the 1960s, when the noted primatologists Jane Goodall and Dian Fossey broke from scientific convention by naming chimpanzees and gorillas instead of assigning them numbers. David Greybeard, the chimpanzee who became famous worldwide after Goodall observed him using tools, is remembered as an individual, identifiable by the grey facial hair that gave him a characteristically wise appearance.

Similarly, Digit, a young gorilla with a missing finger, became known after appearing alongside Fossey in photographs. Naming created memory, memory created narrative, narrative created empathy. Even then, however, the science of conservation has remained firmly focused on populations.

Icons of tourism

India, too, has had its own version of Craig. Machli, the famed tigress of Ranthambore, became one of the most photographed tigers in the world. She appeared in documentaries, featured on magazine covers, and drew thousands of visitors to the park.

Tourism associated with her reportedly generated millions of dollars over her lifetime. Her descendants continue to carry forward her legacy, still drawing tourists to Ranthambore today.

Machli was not 'conservation' in herself but she did not undermine it either. She coexisted with conservation goals. Her presence helped sustain tourism, which in turn supported local livelihoods and park revenues. Visitors who came to visit Machli sometimes left with a broader appreciation for forests and wildlife.

But achieving this balance has not been easy.

Wildlife tourism built around celebrity animals often expands beyond ecological limits. Resorts mushroom near park boundaries. Safari vehicles crowd sightings. Guides, who are under pressure to deliver tiger or elephant 'encounters', may focus narrowly on charismatic megafauna while overlooking the broader ecosystem. The wildlife biologist and conservationist Sanjay Gubbi has argued that such tourism frequently becomes a commercial enterprise rather than an educational one.

He pointed out that tiger sightings are often reduced to little more than selfie opportunities, offering visitors photographs and social media posts rather than a deeper appreciation of ecological needs.

Emotion versus ecology

The challenge lies in how the public interprets these icons of wildlife. Emotional attachment can blur the distinction between the welfare of individuals and protecting the species. In the wild, injury, starvation, and death are part of natural ecological processes. Predators may set out to hunt and return empty handed.

Young animals die of disease or are killed while their elders become frail. These losses help regulate animal populations over time, ensuring they don't exceed the resources available or the carrying capacity of the ecosystem.

Yet when a well-known animal suffers, people call for it to be saved and treated, sometimes followed by demanding its lifelong care. Such interventions can feel like a moral salve but rarely hold any conservation value. Unless a species is critically endangered, as with the great Indian bustard, where every individual truly matters, saving a single animal rarely changes the trends that matter to its population as a whole.

In his 2014 article in *The Hindu*, the conservation biologist and tiger expert K. Ullas Karanth argued that focusing too much on individual animals can misdirect

Elephants at Amboseli National Park in Kenya with mount Kilimanjaro in the background. AMOGHAVARSHA JS (CC BY-SA)

Craig's death by natural causes is, in many ways, a conservation success. He survived decades in a landscape once ravaged by poaching. Unlike other famed 'super tuskers' that were killed for ivory, his life reflects the benefits of sustained protection, anti-poaching enforcement, and community involvement

limited resources. The survival of a species depends on protecting its habitats, making sure it has access to sufficient prey populations, keeping its populations genetically diverse, connecting it spatially to other populations nearby, and mitigating human pressures on its survival – and not on prolonging the life of one ageing tiger.

Dedicating money and human resources to high-profile rescues, he added, could in fact come at the cost of less visible but more important work necessary to sustain populations in the wild.

Therefore, from a conservation perspective, Craig's importance lay not in his fame but in his genes. As one of the few remaining elephants with exceptionally large tusks, he carried traits that poaching has nearly erased.

Yet dismissing individual animals entirely would also be a mistake.

"In human-dominated landscapes, certain animals can become ambassadors for coexistence," elephant researcher Ananda M. Kumar, of the Nature Conservation Foundation, said.

He pointed to the case of a female elephant named Singari in Tamil Nadu's Valparai plateau. Once wary of people, she began feeding calmly near settlements as old age limited her movement. And rather than drive her away, the villagers also grew protective. When she died, they gathered to mourn her.

Such relationships do not replace conservation science but they can soften attitudes toward wildlife and reduce conflict. Emotional familiarity can make tolerance possible in places where people live alongside large animals. For social species like elephants, understanding individual personalities can also help researchers predict behaviour and manage human-elephant interactions more effectively.

In such contexts, a well-known individual wild animal can help researchers track behaviour as well as communicate more effectively with local communities.

Celebrity as liability

Perhaps the risks are most visible when famous animals are involved in human deaths.

Public opinion has been known to fracture when a well-known tiger or elephant kills a person, and often along predictable lines: the animal's urban admirers demand that it be protected while the local communities demand that it be moved away, if not killed. Eventually the forest department is caught between emotional campaigns and the need to maintain trust with the people who share space with wildlife every day.

The case of Ranthambore's Ustad (T-24), a large male tiger and descendant of Machli, illustrated this dilemma. After being linked to multiple human deaths in 2015, local authorities decided to remove him from the wild, only for protests to erupt and legal battles to follow. To many people outside the region, he was a beloved icon – but to the villagers, Ustad was a danger.

Scientists have warned that failing to act decisively in such cases can erode local support for conservation. Dr. Karanth also articulated this perspective in his writing, noting that in healthy tiger populations, a significant fraction of individuals die every year of natural causes, territorial conflicts or the risks associated with dispersal (including being killed in road accidents or being injured in fights over territory).

So attempting to 'rescue' every conflict animal may satisfy public sentiment but can undermine long-term conservation goals by alienating the people whose cooperation is essential to protect habitats. Dr. Gubbi also has, in other contexts, expressed similar concerns about how emotion-driven responses can clash with ecological realities on the ground.

What Craig stood for

Craig's death by natural causes is, in many ways, a conservation success. He survived decades in a landscape once ravaged by poaching. Unlike other famed "super tuskers" that were killed for ivory, his life reflects the benefits of sustained protection, anti-poaching enforcement, and community involvement. He was an exception.

Celebrity animals are powerful storytellers. They capture attention in ways that statistics never can. They open emotional doors through which conservation messages can enter. But they're not the full picture.

Conservation ultimately depends on less photogenic realities such as protecting habitats, enforcing laws, partnering with communities, securing corridors, using science-based management, and securing long-term funding – things that neither trend on social media nor inspire tributes.

Perhaps the role of iconic wildlife individuals is not conservation but to lead us towards it. Loving a single elephant or tiger is easy but translating that fascination to support for policies and commitments needed to protect entire landscapes is harder, but also more necessary.

If the global mourning for Craig remains focused on the death of one magnificent elephant, very little will have been achieved. But if it leads instead to sustained support for anti-poaching efforts, habitat protection, and saving elephant corridors, then his story will serve conservation.

(Ipsita Herlekar is an independent science writer. ipsitaherlekar@gmail.com)

Heat rises: Earth's average monthly temperature took a noticeable jump up in early 2023. FILE PHOTO

Temperature spikes lead to change in El Nino labelling

Associated Press

The natural El Nino cycle, which warps weather worldwide, is both adding to and shaped by a warming world, meteorologists said.

A new study calculated that an unusual recent twist in the warming and cooling cycle that includes El Nino and its counterpart La Nina can help explain the scientific mystery of why earth's already rising temperature spiked to a new level over the past three years.

Separately, scientists have had to update how they label El Nino and La Nina because of rapid weather changes caused by global warming. Increasingly

The change is likely to mean that more events will be considered La Nina and fewer as El Nino for warming tropical waters

hot waters globally have caused the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration this month to alter how it calculates when the weather pattern has flipped into a new cycle. It's likely to mean that more events will be considered La Nina and fewer qualify as an El Nino for warming tropical waters.

Earth's average monthly temperature took a noticeable jump up from the long-term upward trend connected to human-caused climate change in early 2023, and that increase continued through 2025. Scientists have many theories about what's happening, including faster global warming, less pollution from ships, an underwater eruption, and increased solar output.

In a new study in *Nature Geoscience* this month, Japanese researchers looked at how the difference in energy coming to and leaving the planet – called earth's energy imbalance – increased in 2022. An increased imbalance, or more trapped heat, then leads to warmer temperatures, scientists said. The researchers calculated that about three-quarters of the change in earth's energy imbalance can be attributed to the combination of long-term human-caused climate change and a shift from a three-year cooling La Nina cycle to a warm El Nino one.

El Nino is a cyclical and natural warming of patches of the equatorial Pacific that then alters the world's weather patterns, while La Nina is marked by cooler than average waters. In turn El Ninos tend to increase global temperatures and La Ninas depress the long-term rise.

From 2020 to 2023, earth had an unusual "triple dip" La Nina without an El Nino in between. In a La Nina, warm water sticks to a deeper depth, resulting in a cooler surface. And that reduces how much energy goes out into space, said study co-author Yu Kosaka, a climate scientist at the University of Tokyo.

She compared it to what happens when people have fevers: "If our body's temperature is high then it tends to emit its energy out, and the earth has the same situation happening. And as the temperatures increase, it acts to emit more energy outward. And for three-year La Nina, it's the opposite."

About 23% of the energy imbalance driving the recent higher temperatures comes from this unusually long La Nina pattern, with slightly more than half coming from gases from the burning of coal, oil and gas, the study authors said. The rest can be other factors.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

BDA renews efforts to collect betterment fees, targets principal of over ₹3,000 cr.

The betterment fee will apply to land 'notified and later left out' from the layout scheme; efforts to collect the fee in these layouts started in 2015

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has renewed efforts to collect betterment charges from land 'notified and later left out' from the layout scheme in 22 layouts it has developed in Bengaluru. BDA has been trying to mop up over ₹3,000 crore in betterment charge from these properties for a decade now, but failed to collect the money.

BDA, on Wednesday, issued a public notice in this regard.

Sources in BDA said the board may move ahead with stern measures, like demolition and auction properties of owners who fail to pay the fee.

Efforts to collect betterment fee in these layouts started in 2015. Then Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had announced a scheme to regularise 'encroachment of BDA land' in lieu of betterment fee of nearly ₹3,500 crore. This mainly targeted 2,262 acres dropped from Arkavathi Layout scheme, and 610 acres dropped from Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout scheme.

BDA is collecting betterment fee for properties left out of the layout scheme at K. Shivaram Karanth Layout, the latest layout it has developed.

Sources in BDA say the board may move ahead with stern measures, like demolition and auction of properties of owners who fail to pay the fee. FILE PHOTO

The public notice issued on February 25, however, focuses on the old layouts where there are betterment fee arrears.

Since these landowners are also beneficiaries of the development activities, like roads, drainage, streetlights, and water, taken up by BDA, they are bound to pay a betterment fee as per the BDA Act, 1976.

Betterment fee is fixed as one-third of the rise in guidance value of the land in the area after the formation of the layout.

However, this was challenged in courts, and most land owners did not pay betterment fees in the last decade.

Sources in BDA said Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) reports have also flagged the authority's failure to collect betterment fee amounting to ₹3,000 crore from 22 layouts, and the issue is now before the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

Following BDA winning several verdicts in its favour, the authority has again started efforts to collect betterment fee.

BDA is building the Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC) and a short tunnel and rotary flyover on the Hebbal - Mekhri circle stretch among other projects for which it is on a drive to mop up funds.

Penalty waiver

BDA Act, 1976, states that property owners have to pay a betterment fee within 90 days of it being notified, and any delay will attract a 2% penalty every month.

BDA is now keen on collecting betterment fee from landowners of 'left out' properties in these 22 layouts, along with interest and penalty from the date of notification of betterment fee over a decade ago.

"The principal alone is expected to fetch ₹3,000 crore. Including penalty and interest will take that amount to several times the principal. There is a demand from property-owners to waive off interest and penalty. But, we do not have that discretion," a senior BDA official said.

G.S. Sridhar, whose house in a private layout developed on land dropped from the Arkavathi Layout scheme at Jakkur, said the betterment fee for his 30X50 plot adds up to ₹5.04 lakh. The penalty and interest would peg the total amount at over ₹20 lakh. "Like the Karnataka government gave a One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme for property tax and water bill arrears, where only principal was paid and penalty and interest was waived off, an OTS should be provided for us as well," he urged.

Betterment fee

Layout	Fee in ₹/sq. ft
Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout	74
Arkavathi Layout	336
Banashanakari VI Stage	14
Further extension of Banashankari VI Stage	99
Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout	15
Further extension of Vishweshwaraiah Layout	6
Anjanapura	37
Jnanabharathi Layout	73
J.P. Nagar 9th Phase	48

From Page One

ED files prosecution complaint against Ranya

The FIR pertains to the interception of 14.213 kg of foreign-origin gold worth approximately ₹12.56 crore from Ranya at the Kempegowda International Airport on March 3, 2025.

Subsequent searches reportedly led to the recovery of gold jewellery valued at ₹2.06 crore and Indian currency amounting to ₹2.67 crore. The DRI has separately filed a prosecution complaint under Section 135 of the Customs Act, said the ED in a statement.

According to the ED, its investigation revealed that a total of 127.287 kg of gold valued at approximately ₹102.55 crore was smuggled into India between March 2024 and March 2025.

The contraband gold was allegedly disposed of in the domestic market through a network of handlers and jewellers.

The proceeds were generated in cash and routed through hawala channels in India and abroad.

These funds were allegedly layered and passed through multiple bank accounts and entities to project them as legitimate business transactions.

Search operations

Search operations under Section 17 of PMLA were conducted on May 21 and 22, 2025, at 16 locations across Karnataka, leading to the seizure of incriminating documents, digital devices, and Indian and foreign currency.

Statements of several individuals were recorded under Section 50 of PMLA during the course of the probe.

The ED also provisionally attached immovable properties worth ₹34.12 crore held in the name of Harshavardini Ranya under Section 5(1) of PMLA through Provisional Attachment Order dated July 4, 2025.

BMRCL MD J. Ravishankar inspecting the Reach-6 elevated corridor of the Pink Line of Namma Metro in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

BMRCL MD inspects Reach-6 elevated corridor of Pink Line

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

J. Ravishankar, managing director, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL), inspected the ongoing works of Reach-6 (Elevated section) of the Pink Line under Phase-2 of the Namma Metro on Wednesday.

"As part of the regular progress review and quality assurance process, the MD undertook a detailed inspection of the stretch to assess construction progress, adherence to safety protocols, engineering standards, and overall project preparedness. The inspection covered civil works, station development, and other associated infrastructure components," said a release.

During the visit, Mr. Ravishankar interacted with project officials, engineers, and contractors to review milestone achievements and address implementation challenges. He emphasised the importance of maintaining the highest safety standards, adhering to committed timelines, and ensuring quality execution at every stage of construction, said the release.

Family of brain-dead youth from Mandya donates organs giving new lease of life to six

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An act of generosity by the family of a brain-dead youth from Chikka Mandya village in Mandya district, who consented to donate his organs, has enabled multiple patients to receive a new lease of life.

The organ retrieval was carried out at the Trauma and Emergency Care Centre (TECC) on the State-run Victoria Hospital campus, attached to the Bengaluru Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI).

While the retrieval procedure was undertaken at the trauma centre, the organs were subsequently allocated for transplantation to eligible recipients as per protocol.

Victoria Hospital Medical Superintendent Deepak S. and TECC special officer Asima Banu said the coordinated efforts of the BMCRI team, TECC staff and the Jeevasaarthakate organ donation facilitation team ensured the smooth conduct of the retrieval process.

Bike accident

Darshan (name changed), a resident of Chikka Mandya in Kasaba hobli, sustained injuries after falling off his motorcycle on February 22.

Initially returning home after the fall, his condition later worsened and he was admitted to a local hospital, where scans revealed severe internal brain haemorrhage. He was referred to Victoria Hospital's TECC for advanced care.

Despite intensive treatment and repeated clinical assessments, he showed no signs of neurological recovery.

After two days of observation and mandatory tests, a senior panel of doctors officially declared him brain dead in accordance with established medical protocols. Following counselling by the Jeevasaarthakate team, the grieving family took the decision to donate his organs.

The liver, kidneys, heart valves and other organs were retrieved at the trauma centre and allocated to patients in need, potentially benefitting six individuals.

The transplant procedures for kidneys and liver were done at the Institute of Nephro Urology (INU) and Institute of Gastroenterology Sciences and Organ Transplant (IGOT) respectively while the heart valves were sent to another hospital.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, FEB. 26		
RISE	06:37	SET 18:28
RISE	13:35	SET 02:01
FRIDAY, FEB. 27		
RISE	06:37	SET 18:28
RISE	14:38	SET 03:03
SATURDAY, FEB. 28		
RISE	06:36	SET 18:28
RISE	15:41	SET 04:00

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	34	20
Bengaluru	31	20

Bengaluru Today
33°C The weather will be dry. Day will be warm. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
32°C Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night also will be slight cool.

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THE HINDU
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Modi to flag off weekly Amrit Bharat Express

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off four new train services, including the much-awaited weekly Mangaluru Central-Rameswaram-Mangaluru Central Express, and an Amrit Bharat Express between Tambaram and Mangaluru, at Madurai on March 1.

Mr. Modi will also flag off the Coimbatore-Dhanabad Amrit Bharat Express and the Nagercoil-Charlapalli Amrit Bharat Express from Madurai.

The weekly Mangaluru Central-Rameswaram-Mangaluru Central Express would depart Mangaluru Central on Saturdays at 7.30 p.m. to reach Rameswaram on Sundays at 10.50 a.m. via Palakkad, Madurai and Manamadurai.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of tourists rescued after heavy snowfall in East Sikkim

2,736 Over 2,700 tourists stranded due to heavy snowfall near the Tsomgo Lake in East Sikkim were rescued. Heavy snowfall in the higher reaches of Sherathang and adjoining areas led to road blockages, leaving 541 tourist vehicles stranded. PTI

People released since amnesty law took effect in Venezuela

3,200 A special commission of Venezuela's National Assembly announced that over 3,200 people have been released since the amnesty law took effect four days ago. This group includes both former detainees and those previously under house arrest. PTI

HIV patients undergoing treatment in Meghalaya

10,293 Meghalaya has the highest HIV caseload in India with over 10,000 patients receiving antiretroviral therapy, Health Minister W. Shylla said. She stated that the State has already approved a ₹25 crore mission-mode programme. PTI

Displaced persons in South Sudan at risk due to funding gaps

1.9 In million. The lives of more than 1.9 million displaced people in South Sudan are being put at risk due to aid funding shortages, the UN's migration agency said. South Sudan, the world's newest sovereign country, has been beset by civil war, poverty and massive corruption. AFP

Share of the pollution control budget which has been utilised

43 In per cent. Around 43% of ₹300 crore allocated under pollution control and emergency measures in the Delhi budget for 2025-26 has been utilised till January 20. The environment department of Delhi stated that ₹129.83 crore was spent. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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How are Indian firms training LLMs?

Why is training a Large Language Model on Indian soil with Indian capital a challenge? How has the IndiaAI Mission subsidised efforts to conduct training in India? Why is a Mixture of Experts (MoE) architecture inexpensive than other comparable models?

EXPLAINER

Aroon Deep

The story so far:

At the AI Impact Summit, the Bengaluru-based startup Sarvam AI released two Large Language Models (LLMs), which are the foundation for AI systems that power services like Google's Gemini and OpenAI's ChatGPT. The two models were trained on 35 billion and 105 billion parameters respectively, and were less power- and compute-intensive than comparable models, while demonstrating improvements over other models in Indian languages, Pratyush Kumar, a Sarvam co-founder said.

How are LLMs trained?

LLMs are trained and operated on clusters of Graphics Processing Units (GPUs). The combined cost of the GPUs and the electricity needed to run them long enough to train a model, run into millions of dollars. The grist for this mill is data, largely scraped from the Internet, where English, European languages and East Asian languages like Korean and Japanese are more richly represented than Indian languages.

This creates a twofold challenge for training an LLM on Indian soil with Indian capital: for one thing, with scarce data sources, many LLMs either perform worse when operating on Indian languages, or burn more "tokens" on inference to translate sentences into English (and translating responses back) to perform better. Since machine translation has improved dramatically for Indian languages, this remains the gold standard for many LLMs. Secondly, since capital is also scarce, efforts to train an LLM by Indian firms targeting Indian users can be challenging, especially if there is no immediate business use case for doing so.

Using translations as a fulcrum can be a challenge for developers who want to leverage local LLMs – like Sarvam's 35 billion parameter model, which was shown off in a demo during the summit's research symposium working on a feature phone – where suboptimal performance in Indian languages can impact adoption and quality of performance.

New innovations: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Sarvam co-founder Pratyush Kumar at the AI Impact Summit, at Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi on February 19. PTI

Has there been government support?

The IndiaAI Mission has subsidised efforts to conduct training in India, by commissioning over 36,000 GPUs in data centres operated by Indian firms like Yotta, and allowing researchers and startups to run training and inference workloads at a relatively nominal fee. The government gave Sarvam access to 4,096 GPUs from its common compute cluster, and the subsidy so far is estimated at almost ₹100 crore. The "bill of materials" for this cluster is ₹246 crore, though these GPUs can probably be continued to be used by others.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has encouraged domestic LLM development for many reasons. The main one is a belief that foreign-developed LLMs can't possibly find the capabilities or the business case to develop the capacity to work well with Indian languages. Additionally, encouraging talent that can train LLMs has been seen as important to foster the Indian AI ecosystem.

As such, Sarvam's announcement of its two models is a significant development in India's own quest to develop a powerful and relatively inexpensive LLM. When China's DeepSeek developed its R1 LLM, the entire AI industry quickly adopted its techniques, as it saved on cost for training and inference without compromising output quality. The government has sought to spark a similar cost advantage.

Mr. Kumar of Sarvam said that the LLM was trained "from scratch," and that the model would be made open source. However, while it has been made available on an app named Indus, it is not available on platforms like Hugging Face, making it difficult for outside experts to scrutinise the claims the firm has made.

What is the MoE architecture?

A key breakthrough for AI models seeking to function locally was the Mixture of Experts (MoE) architecture. When the first LLMs trained on hundreds of billions or even over a trillion parameters were launched, inference was typically run by "activating" all parameters, making queries expensive. But an MoE model only activates a fraction of the overall parameters of a model, making it run faster and also consume a lower level of computing resources.

Even 105 billion parameters, Sarvam acknowledges, "is significantly smaller than the frontier models powering global consumer chat applications today," and the firm says it is "intentionally focused on accuracy, usefulness, efficiency, and alignment for the Indian context before training bigger foundational models".

As such, the answers are not as in-depth as a response from paid versions of Gemini or ChatGPT. That part will come later, Sarvam says, when it has the necessary investments to put money into a larger training run.

Another LLM developed and trained on the common compute cluster was by BharatGen, the IIT Bombay-incubated firm that was able to train a "multilingual" 17 billion parameter model. That model, the firm says, is for use in sectors like education and healthcare. Gnani.ai, another firm, launched a small text-to-speech model.

THE GIST

- LLMs are trained and operated on clusters of Graphics Processing Units (GPUs). The combined cost of the GPUs and the electricity needed to run them long enough to train a model, run into millions of dollars.
- The IndiaAI Mission has subsidised efforts to conduct training in India, by commissioning over 36,000 GPUs in data centres operated by Indian firms like Yotta.
- A key breakthrough for AI models seeking to function locally was the Mixture of Experts (MoE) architecture.

What are carbon capture and utilisation technologies?

How can such technologies reduce carbon dioxide emissions? What is the EU Bioeconomy Strategy and Circular Economy Action Plan? How can India scale-up CCU technology?

Shambhavi Naik

The story so far:

Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU) refers to a set of technologies that capture carbon dioxide emissions from industrial sources or directly from the air and convert them into useful products. This process removes carbon from the atmosphere and puts it into the economy as inputs for fuels, chemicals, building materials, or polymers. Unlike carbon capture and storage, where captured CO_2 is permanently stored underground rather than reused, CCU uses up the captured carbon.

Why does India need CCU?

India has consistently been the world's third-largest emitter of CO_2, with emissions driven largely by power generation, cement, steel, and chemicals. While renewable energy may reduce future emissions, many industrial processes are inherently carbon-intensive and difficult to decarbonise. CCU offers a pathway to reduce emissions from these "hard-to-abate" sectors while simultaneously creating new industrial value chains. It also aligns with India's net-zero target for 2070 and its push to build a circular, low-carbon economy.

Where does India stand today?

India has begun supporting CCU through research funding from the Department of Science and Technology which has created a specific research and development roadmap for these technologies. The draft 2030 roadmap for Carbon Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) presented by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural gas has identified projects that can be used for CCUS purposes. In the private sector, Ambuja Cements (Adani Group) is working on an Indo-Swedish CCU pilot with IIT Bombay to convert captured CO_2 into fuels and materials. JK Cement is collaborating on a CCU testbed to capture CO_2 for applications such as lightweight concrete blocks and olefins. Beyond cement, Organic Recycling Systems Limited (ORSL) is leading India's first pilot-scale Bio-CCU platform, valorising CO_2 from biogas streams into bio-alcohols and specialty chemicals.

What are other countries doing?

The EU Bioeconomy Strategy and Circular Economy Action Plan explicitly supports CCU as a way to turn CO_2 into feedstocks for chemicals, fuels, and materials, linking it to circularity and sustainability targets. ArcelorMittal and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. are working with a climate tech company, D-CRBN, to trial a new technology to convert CO2 captured at ArcelorMittal's plant in Gent, Belgium into carbon monoxide which can be used in steel and chemical production. The U.S. uses a combination of tax credits and funding to scale CCUs, particularly for CO_2-derived fuels and chemicals. The UAE's Al Reyadah project and planned CO_2-to-chemicals hubs leverage CCU with green hydrogen.

What are the risks ahead?

The foremost risk in scaling CCU in India is cost competitiveness. Capturing, purifying, and converting CO_2 is energy-intensive and expensive. Without policy incentives, CCU-derived products will struggle to compete with cheaper, fossil-based alternatives. A second risk lies in infrastructure readiness. CCU requires co-located industrial clusters, reliable transport of CO_2, and integration with downstream manufacturing, all of which are unevenly developed across Indian industrial regions. Finally, the absence of clear standards, certification, and market signals creates uncertainty for investors and limits demand for CO_2-derived products.

India has taken positive steps through the development of roadmaps to achieving CCU, and their appropriate implementation will be necessary for achieving India's goals.

Shambhavi Naik is chairperson, Takshashila Institution's Health & Life Sciences Policy,

THE GIST

- Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU) refers to a set of technologies that capture carbon dioxide emissions from industrial sources or directly from the air and convert them into useful products.
- India has consistently been the world's third-largest emitter of CO_2.
- The foremost risk in scaling CCU in India is cost competitiveness. Capturing, purifying, and converting CO_2 is energy-intensive and expensive.

Newly-wed Dalit couple denied entry to temple, officials convene peace meet

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after a 58-year-old agriculturist from Gonitumakuru in Turuvekere taluk of Tumakuru district in Karnataka was arrested on the charge of preventing a newly-wed Dalit couple from entering a temple recently, the district administration comprising police and Revenue officials convened a peace meeting and escorted the newly-wed couple to perform puja at the temple.

A peace meeting was convened in Goni village of Turuvekere taluk following alleged humiliation of a newly-wed Dalit couple who were asked to leave the Arasamma Devi temple.

The alleged incident had taken place on February 19 at the Arasamma Devi temple. In response, a peace meeting was organised in the village on Tuesday.

After the meeting, SP K.V. Ashok and Turuvekere Tahsildar M.N. Kunji Ahmed personally escorted the couple into the temple, holding their hands, and ensured they offered prayers. Amid police deployment, the Dalit couple entered the temple and had a darshan of the village deity.

Addressing the gathering, the Tahsildar said that a government temple is a public space as the Arasamma Devi temple comes under the Muzrai Department, and it is open to all devotees without discrimination. He warned that strict action would be taken if such incidents recur in the taluk.

He advised villagers from all communities to maintain harmony and communal amity.

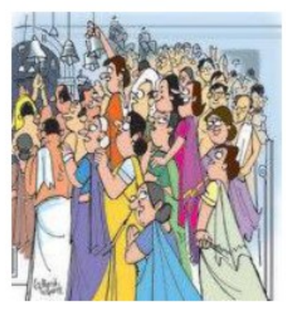
Officials said the situation in the village, which had witnessed tension following the incident, is now under control after the peace meeting.

The accused, Narayanappa, was arrested under the SC/ST Atrocity Act, and remanded in judicial custody.

Similar incident

On February 23, a Dalit woman was allegedly assaulted and abused inside a temple in Tumakuru district by the priest to stop her from entering the premises.

The woman, Roja, is from Andrahalli on Magadi Road in Bengaluru. She has alleged that she was



abused on caste lines and assaulted inside a temple in Yediyur hobli.

Roja had come to her native village Thigalarapalya in Yediyur hobli to attend the Maramma Devi festival. On February 23 night, she visited the Venkataramana Moodalagiri temple along with her mother and sister.

In her complaint to Amruthur police station, Roja alleged that when she entered the temple, the priest, Hanumayya, along with Jayalakshmamma, Srinivas and about 16 others, objected to her presence, and asked her to leave.

She alleged that they abused her referring to her caste, saying she should not enter the temple.

The accused allegedly picked her up by her hair, assaulted her, and pushed her out of the temple premises.

Based on the complaint, police registered a case and arrested the temple priest. Further investigation is under way.

Incidentally, both incidents occurred in Home Minister G. Parameshwara's constituency.

M. Maheshwar Rao

GBA Chief to hold public interaction tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao will hold a public interaction meeting in the city on Friday. Mr. Rao will visit various offices under the Central City Corporation between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. to conduct inspections.

Following this, he will preside over a public grievance meeting from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the conference hall on the 10th floor of the Public Utility Building on M.G. Road.

CLARIFICATION OF NAME

I, **Nataraj** S/o Late Nanjundappa R/at No.819, Ward No.15, Behind Dasara Beedi, Devanahally Town & Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District - 562110 do hereby solemnly state that, including in my Aadhaar Card (No.2769 0774 5219), School Transfer Certificate and other documents my name is mentioned as **NATARAJ @ NATARAJA.** I further state that both these names refers to same person i.e., me only. I further state that i continuous **NATARAJ** for all purpose vide affidavit dated 08.01.2026 sworn to Notary.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Loss of Document

"My client SRI.RAJU I, S/o Inasappa, Resident of No.79, Kanakanagar Main Road, Halehalli, Krishnarajapura, Bangalore-560036. has lost the original Hakkupathra of Site No. 123, formed in Survey number 14 of Sonnathamanahalli, K R Pura Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, presently Bengaluru East Taluk; Issued by Block development officer, Bengaluru South Taluk. Hakkupathra was lost during travel from Halehalli to K R Puram through Auto rickshaw on 25-01-2026. Any public who finds the original lost Hakkupathra document may kindly be handed over to Sri. RAJU I, of above address.

N. K. RAVINDRA, Advocate
Oil Mill Road, behind Indian
Bank K R Puram,Bangalore 560036

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This is to inform general public that during house cleaning process, I have lost original registered sale deed No 351/89-90 dated 26/07/1989 registered in the office of Sub-Registrar, Yelahanka, Bangalore executed between Karnataka Housing Board, Bangalore and Alvin Jose Joseph Banglore relating to site No 2011 Yelahanka city municipal council katha No.1010/2011 with BBMP katha No 26/2011 and BBMP e-PID No 1194106007 measuring in all 412.80 sq.meters situated at Yelahanka new town, Sector-B Extension, Yelahanka taluk, Bangalore urban District and is bounded by :-
East : Road, West : Site No.2012,
North : Road, South : Site No.2010
If anybody has any interest/rights and or disputes in respect of the above property, the same may be notified within 7 days of this public notice.

KUMARI. TARA SIDDHARTH RAO,
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Town, Bangalore-560064.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that, our client is the absolute owner of below mentioned property and they represent that the Original Sale Deed dated 30.07.2015 registered as document No.3797/2015-16; either lost or misplaced and he is unable to trace the same inspite of his best efforts and he has also lodged a complaint with the Local Police Station on 21.02.2026, regarding the loss of original document. If anyone finds the above-mentioned document, they are hereby requested to deliver the same to the undersigned and if any person were to deal with the said original title deed in respect of the below property other than our client, such transactions will not bind him, and they will be doing so at their own risk and cost.

PROPERTY DETAILS

All the piece and parcel of the Site bearing No.57, carved out of residentially converted Survey No. 201 and 202, having Khatha No.253/57 In 'Chowdeshwari Layout' situated at Binnamangala Village, Arishinakunte Hamlet, Kasaba Hobli, Nelmangala Taluk, measuring 1200 Sq Ft and bounded by Site No.56 on the East, Site No.58 on the West, Site No.38 on the North and Road on the South;

Ramya N. Hiriyur Advocate
Shree Mukhi Associates Advocates
Unit No. 36 and 37, 4th Floor Grand Majestic Mall, No. 12, 2nd Cross Gandhinagar, Bangalore 560 009
Mobile +91 99860 61950 Mobile +91 98454 44569

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(Department of AYUSH)
Zilla Panchayath, Ballari, Office of the District Ayush Office Ballari. Veeranagouda Colony, Ashoka Nagar, Near Bhagya Hospital, Opposite Kumarswamy Temple, Ballari-583101 email: dao.Bellary09@gmail.com.

No:DAOB/Out/GD/EST/08/2025-26 Dated: 23.02.2026

E- Tender Notification

District Ayush Officer, District Ayush Office, Ballari has Invited e-tender in KPPP Portal www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in to Service Outsource Man Power Services with the estimated cost of Rs. 71.69 lakhs in two bid cover system as per KTPP act from eligible registered tenderers. Tenderer may be download the application and upload the filled e-tender application in KPPP Portal with EMD amount until 10.03.2026 @ 05.00 pm. **Sd/- District Ayush Officer, Ballari.**

DIPR/Ballari/1048/KSMCA/2025-26

INNOVATE KARNATAKA — K-tech

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Tender No.: ITBTST/2025-26/SE0042

Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), Department of Electronics, IT, Bt and S&T intends to select a Consultancy Services to attract GCCs, IT / ITeS, Data Centers and creating ecosystem for emerging technologies in Karnataka. In this regard, KITS invites RFP from the eligible consultancy companies.

Any notices/information related to this RFP in the future shall be available on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only.

The deadline for submission is **on or before 27.03.2026 by 4.00 P.M.** Refer to the RFP document for eligibility criteria and other conditions.

Sd/-
Managing Director
KITS

KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT & BT, Government of Karnataka
BKG Sapphire, # 59, 3rd Floor, Railway Parallel Road, Kumara Park West, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020. Tel: 080-22231008
E-mail: gmit.kits@gmail.com

DIPR/CP/5864/AKAR/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರವಾರ

ಸಂ: ಕಾ.ನಿ.ಇಂ./ಲೋ.ಇ.ವಿ,ಕಾ/ಪಿ.ಬಿ–1/ಟೆಂಡರ–31/2025–26/5442 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24–02–2026

ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್)

ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕೋಷ್ಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ ಇವರಿಂದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕೋಷ್ಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವದು. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ವಹಿಸಲು ಅರ್ಹರಾಗಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು (ಕೆಡಬ್ಲೂ–3) ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸುವದು.

(1) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಗೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: **04–03–2026 16.30** ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ (2) ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: **05–03–2026 16.30** ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ (3) ಟೆಂಡರನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: **06–03–2026 17.00** ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ (4) ಟೆಂಡರನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: **09–03–2026 17.00** ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: **4059-80-051-0-60-132 CMIDP During 2025-26** ವರ್ಕ ಇನಡೆಂಟ್ **(1) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 33722 (2) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT32833 (3) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT33189 (4) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT32841**

ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: **Mitigation- 8443-Deposite Contribution During 2025-26** ವರ್ಕ ಇನಡೆಂಟ್ **(1) PWD/2025-26/FP/WORK_INDENT32649**

(ಕೆಡಬ್ಲೂ–3) ರಲ್ಲಿನ ನಿಭಂದನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ **e-proc** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾದ ನಿಭಂದನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇಲಾಖಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂದರೆ **"https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in"** ನೋಡಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ **help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 918025501216 & 918025501227)** ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/1149/25-26 dt. 25.02.2026

Karnataka Public Work Department
(A Government of KarnatakaEnterprises) O/O Executive Engineer PWD Division, Hosapete, Dist:-Vijayanagara

No:EE/PWD/Dn/Hosapete/TND/ AE-1 /2025-26/3865 **Date:- 19.02.2026**

Short Term E-Tender Notification

Tenders are invited by undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, PWD Division Hosapete, Vijayanagara Dist, for the works notified in the statement below. The bid shall be in One or Two Cover system namely technical bid and financial bid through KPP Portal, following the link https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sl. No	Work Indent No	Estimate Cost (Rs in Lakhs)	Sl. No	Work Indent No	Estimate Cost (Rs in Lakhs)
1	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT30911/CALL-3	5.00	9	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT32280	101.00
2	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31716	49.48	10	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31885	125.00
3	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31741	50.00	11	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT32229	150.00
4	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31740	50.00	12	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT32402	300.00
5	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31745	60.00	13	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT27818/Call-2	300.00
6	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT30787/CALL-2	70.00	14	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT29214	400.00
7	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31951/Call-2	100.00	15	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT30622	500.00
8	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT32169/Call-2	100.00	16	PWD/2024-25/BG/WORK_INDENT18233	995.00

		For Sl No1 to 6	For Sl No 7 to 15	For Sl No16
1	Quarries of Tender On	As Per kppp Portal.		
2	Last Date of Tender Submission On	03.03.2026 @ 16.00 Hours	11.03.2026 @ 16.00 Hours	01.04.2026 @ 16.00 Hours
3	Tender Opening date On	04.03.2026 @ 16.30 Hours	12.03.2026 @ 16.30 Hours	02.04.2026 @ 16.30 Hours
4	Financial Bid Opening Date	As Per kppp Portal.		

Note: The Competent Authority / Employer reserves the right to Accept / Reject / Withheld the all Tenders without assigning any reason.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division Hosapete, Vijayanagara District.

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/KSMCA/RO No/551

Bengaluru North City Corporation
Office of the Executive Engineer, Vidyaranyapura Division, BNCC, Bengaluru-560 097.

No. BNCC/EE/VDP-D/KPPP/Corr/03-01/2025-26 Date: 23.02.2026

CORRIGENDUM - 01

Sub: Regarding Corrigendum for Short Term Notice inviting for Invitation for Tender (IFT).

Ref: This Office Tender Notification No.BNCC/EE/VDP-D/KPPP/03/2025-26 Dated: 17.02.2026

With reference to the above subject, this is for the information all the concerned contractors in particular that in the above tender notification published in this newspaper on 18.02.2026, has been postponed due to technical issue reasons. The date for submission of tender is extended as below. All the terms and conditions remain same.

The Calendar of events is as below: (1) Last Date & Time for receipt of Tender: **03.03.2026 upto 4:00 p.m. (2)** Date & Time for Opening of Tender: **04.03.2026 at 4:30 p.m.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Vidyaranyapura Division, BNCC.

SVC CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.
Corporate Office : LEGAL & RECOVERY DEPT.
SVC Tower, Nehru Road, Vakola, Santacruz (E), Mumbai- 400 055.

Having one of its branches at : Katari Kunj, 9th Cross, Opp. St. John's college, Behind Vijay Mansion, Hampinagar, Vijayangar, Bengaluru 560 104 Having its Regional office-2 at : 1st Floor, No.27, Mount Joy Road, Hanumantha Nagar, Bengaluru-560019. PH: 080 26603994&95

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower and Guarantor that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of SVC Co-operative Bank Ltd., will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is basis" and "Without recourse" basis on **13.03.2026** for recovery of Rs.26,52,78,021.82 (Rupees Twenty Six Crore Fifty Two Lakhs Seventy Eight Thousand Twenty One and Paisa Eighty Two Only) as on 31.01.2026 together with interest from 01.02.2026 at contractual rate plus legal costs/ charges due to SVC Co-operative Bank Ltd., the Secured Creditor, from the Borrower/Guarantors/ Mortgagors (1) M/s. Devkiran Paper Mills Pvt. Ltd., No. 919, 1st Floor, 2nd Cross, 5th Main, M.C. Layout, Vijaynagar, Bangalore 560 040, Also at : Sy. No 24, Gudimavu Village, Kumabalgodu post, Bengaluru-560074. (2) Mr. R. H. Sreenivasa Setty, 915-A, Sai Enclave apartment, Flat No. 04, Second floor, Ideal home Township,19th Main, 19th Cross, RR Nagar, Bangalore 560098. (3) Mr. R.H. Ramakrishna Setty, No.2930-2, k4, 8th cross, Chamudipuram, K R Mohalla, Lakshmi Puram, Mysore-570004, Also at : No. 294/1A, SNS Temple Street, Mysore 570004. (4) Mr. Prashanth R S No.915, SF, Sai Enclave, 19th Main , Ideal Homes township R R Nagar, Bangalore- 560 098, Also at : Flat No. 834, 3rd Floor, Wing- 08, "Suguna Upper Crest Apartment", Halagevederahalli village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore 560 098. (5) Mr. R.T. Kiran No .80/2, 14thCross, 5thMain, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bengaluru-560086, Also at: No.84, Hunsur Road, K.R.Nagar, Mysore-571602. (6) Mr.R.R.Murali, No. 130, 5th Main, Prashant Nagar, Basaweshwarnagar, Bangalore-560 079.

The reserve price, Earnest Money Deposit and details of the Immovable property to be sold are detailed below:

Encumbrance Known to the secure Creditor:- Employees' Provident Fund dues of **Rs.77,82,395/-** (Rupees Seventy Seven Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand Three Hundred and Ninety Five Only) & Electricity dues of **Rs.30,25,240/-** (Rupees Thirty Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand Two Hundred Forty Only)

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Sy.No.24, Gudimavu Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, duly converted for Non-Agricultural Industrial Purposes vide Official Memorandum dated 24.12.1974 bearing No.B.DIS.ALN.SR.426/74-75 issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District and by Conversion Certificate dated 30.04.1975 bearing No.ALN.SR.3178/74-75 issued by the Tahasildar, Bangalore South Taluk, approximately measuring 5 Acre 15 Guntas (out of 10 Acre 20 Guntas in Survey No.24) (excluding site No's 13, 14, 15, 16 and 19 located in the unapproved lay out formed in the said sy. No. totally measuring 17,894.50 Sq.ft.) **total net area measuring 189807.17sq.ft**. bounded on East by : Sy.Nos.6 and 25 belonging to Sri. Thimmaiah and Sri. Venkatappa, West by: Vrishabhavathi River and Sy.Nos.21 and 22 belonging to Sri. Venkatappa, North by :Vrishabhavathi River, Ashwath Katte and Sy.Nos.23 and 25 belonging to Sri. Venkatappa and Sri. Thimmaiah & South by : Sy.Nos.20, 21 and 22 belonging to Sri. Venkatappa and Sri. Thimmaiah.

The reserve price will be **Rs. 29,59,30,000/-** (Rupees Twenty Nine Crore Fifty Nine Lakhs Thirty Thousand Only)and the Earnest Money Deposit will be **Rs.2,95,93,000/-**(Rupees Two Crore Ninty Five Lakhs Ninty Three Thousand Only).

1. Date and Time of E-auction 13-03-2026 from 11.00 AM to 1.00 P.M
2. Date of Inspection of the property on 02-03-2026 & 07-03-2026 with prior appointment (except holidays) between 11.00 A.M to 3.00 P.M.
3. Last date and time for submission of Bid/ EMD 11-03-2026 before 4.00 P.M.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link provided in SVC Co-operative Bank Ltd., the Secured Creditor's website i.e. **https://www.svcbank.com/Notice-Sale**

Date : 25.02.2026 **Sd/- Sarathy Somiah, Authorized Officer**
Place : Bengaluru **& Assistant General Manager,**

ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಭಾಗ್ಯ ಜಲ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಮಿತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ)
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ನಾಬದಂ, ಕಾಲುವೆ ವಿಭಾಗ–4, ಚಿಕ್ಕಹೊನ್ನಕುಣಿ, ತಾ: ದೇವದುರ್ಗ

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ/ನಾಬದಂಕಾ/ವಿ–4/ತಾಶಾ/Maintenance/2025-26/844 ದಿನಾಂಕ:23.02.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಶೇಕಡಾವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಮಾನ್ಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ನಾಬದಂ ಕಾಲುವೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ಸಂ.–4, ಚಿಕ್ಕಹೊನ್ನಕುಣಿ, ತಾ: ದೇವದುರ್ಗ, ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ: ರಾಯಚೂರು ಇವರು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ.ಡಿ. Iನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಕೆ ಟಿ ಟಿ ಪಿ ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಅಗತ್ಯ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಠೇವಣಿ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಇ–ಕ್ಯಾಷ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದು ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಠೇವಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ಅವಶ್ಯಕ ಬಿಡ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನೊಳಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಬಿಡ್ದಾರರ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾತ್ರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: Maintenance work. ಒಟ್ಟು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 1. "ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ಪ್ರತಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ)": As mentioned in e-portal. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೋಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ: As mentioned in e-portal. ಕೆಲಸ ಮುಗಿಸಲು ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ :9 months including monsoon.

1) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪುಸ್ತಕಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.02.2026 ರಿಂದ 04.03.2026 ರವರೆಗೆ ಕೆ.ಬಿ.ಜೆ.ಎನ್.ಎಲ್. ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಕ್ಲಿಕ್ ಮಾಡಿ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ (ಮರಳಿಸಲಾಗದ)/ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಭರಿಸಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪುಸ್ತಕವನ್ನು ಕೋರಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು. ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಪೇಮೆಂಟ ಮೋಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಂಡು ದಿನಾಂಕ:04.03.2026 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.00 ಘಂಟೆಯೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಭರಿಸುವದು. Credit card / Direct debit / National electronic fund transfer (NEFT) / over the counter (OTC) 2) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.02.2026 ರಿಂದ 04.03.2026 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ ಪುಸ್ತಕವನ್ನು Access ಮಾಡಬಹುದು. 3) ಭರ್ತಿಗೊಳಿಸಿದ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ ಪುಸ್ತಕವನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.02.2026 ರಿಂದ 04.03.2026 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವದು. 4) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳು/ಸಂದೇಹಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ Pre-Bid meeting ಅನ್ನು 27.02.2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 AM ಕ್ಕೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡುವವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದು. Cover-I (Technical Bid) ಮತ್ತು Cover-II (Financial Bid)ಗಳನ್ನು Executive Engineer, KBJNL, NRBC, Division No.4, Chikkahonnakuni ಅವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನವಾಗಿ ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ 06.03.2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 AMಕ್ಕೆ ಮತ್ತು 07.03.2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 05.00 PMಕ್ಕೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. 5) ಟೆಂಡರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಉಳಿದ ಯಾವುದೇ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ (ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ) ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸೂಚನೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಅದನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ನಾಬದಂ, ಕಾಲುವೆ ವಿಭಾಗ–4,
ಚಿಕ್ಕಹೊನ್ನಕುಣಿ, ತಾ:ದೇವದುರ್ಗ.

DIP/RCR/720/KSMC&A/723/2025-26

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.

No. DGM-3/BSWML/Tend/ 22/2025-26 Date: 25.02.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (Through GOK KPPP only)

The Deputy General Manager-3, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible tenderers for the services mentioned in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for services through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**

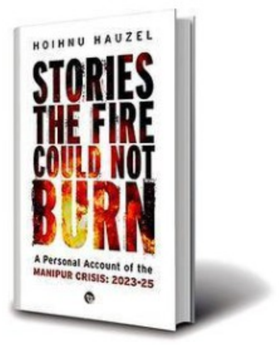
Sl. No	Name of the Work	Estimate amount (Rs. In Lakhs)	Duration	EMD Amount in Rs.
1	Package-1: Conducting 3 Large Scale Workshops on Swachh Survekshan, Solid Waste Management and implementation of effective waste Management and 2 National level Workshops on Institutionalizing Best Practices under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) U-2.0.	318.00	9 Months	4,77,000.00
2	Package-2: Providing Training and Capacity Building for 30% of the Staff including Executive,Technical Executive, Technical, Supervisory and Pourakarmikas, drivers and helpers staffs across themes of Solid Waste Management and Sanitation, Sanitation and Used Water Management under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) U-2.0.	279.60	3 Months	4,19,400.00
3	Package-3: Providing Training and Capacity Building for 35% of the Staff including Executive, Technical Executive, Technical, Supervisory and Pourakarmikas, drivers and helpers staffs across themes of Solid Waste Management and Sanitation, Sanitation and Used Water Management underSwachhBharatMission(SBM)U-2.0.	349.00	3 Months	5,23,500.00
4	Package-4: Providing Training and Capacity Building for 35% of the Staff including Executive, Technical Executive, Technical, Supervisory and Pourakarmikas, drivers and helpers staffs across themes of Solid Waste Management and Sanitation, Sanitation and Used Water Management underSwachhBharatMission(SBM)U-2.0.	349.00	3 Months	5,23,500.00
5	Package-5: Conducting Advanced Level Training for 50% of the Staff including Executive and Technical, Supervisory and Pourakarmikas, drivers and helpers across themes of Solid Waste Management, Sanitation and Used Water Management under Swachh Bharat Mission(SBM)U-2.0.	489.30	6 Months	7,34,000.00
6	Package-6: Conducting Advanced Level Training for 50% of the Staff including Executive and Technical, Supervisory and Pourakarmikas, drivers and helpers across themes of Solid Waste Management, Sanitation and Used Water Management under Swachh Bharat Mission(SBM)U-2.0.	489.30	6 Months	7,34,000.00
7	Package-7: Providing Refresher Training for 50% of the Staff including Executive, Technical and Pourakarmikas staffs across themes of Solid Waste Management, Sanitation and Used Water Management under Swachh BharatMission(SBM)U-2.0.	488.60	9 Months	7,32,900.00
8	Package-8: Providing Refresher Training for 50% of the Staff including Executive, Technical and Pourakarmikas staffs across themes of Solid Waste Management, Sanitation and Used Water Management under Swachh Bharat Mission(SBM)U-2.0.	488.60	9 Months	7,32,900.00

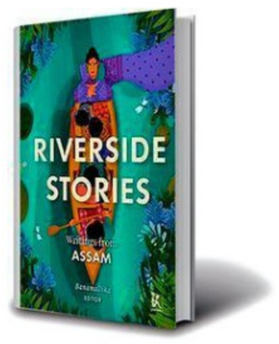
Calendar of Events: (1) Last date to upload pre-bid queries: **02.03.2026 upto 15.00 Hrs. in KPP Portal. (2)** Pre bid meeting: **03.03.2026 at 15.00 Hrs** at the office of CE & CGM (Tech), BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthnagar, Bangalore. **(3)** Last date for submission of the bids: **06.03.2026 upto 16.00 Hrs. (4)** Date of opening of Technical bid on : **07.03.2026 at 16.30 Hrs. (5)** Date of opening of Financial bids to be notified to technically qualified bidders.

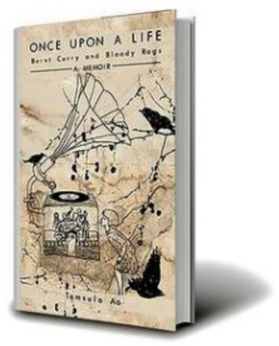
Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML.

DIPR/CP/5871/SSC/2025-26

BIBLIOGRAPHY







In remembrance: Women at a protest meet on the violence against the Kuki community at Churachandpur, Manipur on July 28, 2023. RITU RAJ KONWAR

When home becomes hostile: women of the Northeast write their stories

Manipur. Nagaland. Assam — many States in the region have never really known peace. In the ebbs and flows of violence, thanks to insurgencies, encounters with security forces and ethnic strife, it's the women who have borne the brunt, living in the shadow of conflict

Sudipta Datta

A new government is in place in Manipur after two years of violence. In an attempt to represent the three major communities in the government, a Chief Minister and two Deputy Chief Ministers were announced. While Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh is a Meitei, Nemcha Kipgen, a Kuki, and Losii Dikho, a Naga, were named Deputy Chief Ministers. But Kipgen not only had to take the oath virtually, she has also not been able to set foot in the Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley due to security reasons. She has to work from Kuki-dominated Kangpokpi, trying to help her community heal and bridge the divide.

In her new book, *Stories the Fire Could Not Burn* (Speaking Tiger Books), journalist and writer Hoihnu Hauzel traces the reasons for the ethnic strife that erupted between the Meiteis and Kuki-Zomi people on May 3, 2023. "It is the Kuki-Zomi/Mizo people - my people - who have borne the brunt of the inhumanity unleashed in Manipur," she writes in the Preface, "...hill communities [who] have lived under systemic neglect, routine violence, and constant threat" ever since the inception of the State in 1972.

But what unfolded in 2023 and beyond, says Hauzel, "shattered what little illusion of safety that remained." Healing takes time, Kipgen said in an interview to *The Hindu*, urging the government to let the buffer zones between the Meiteis and the Kuki-Zo communities remain for now, particularly in areas where the violence was high, because safety comes first.

'No hierarchy of horror'

Hauzel poignantly writes about the night her family had to flee Imphal – "how silence hung heavier than the air, how we carried not just our belongings, but our memories, our dead, our dread. That night, we didn't just leave behind homes. We left behind parts of ourselves we may never be able to reclaim."

Many people were not as lucky. At least 250 people lost their lives in the violence, and over 60,000 people have been displaced. "There is no hierarchy of horror," says Hauzel, "but each story demands to be told. Each name deserves remembrance."

Hauzel asks a pertinent question that every marginalised person will identify with: What does one do when home becomes hostile? Manipur has seen waves of violence through the years due to insurgencies and ethnic conflagrations. Growing up in Manipur during the 1980s, violence wasn't an exception, writes Hauzel - "it was part of the routine", and she could tell the difference between the sound of a cracker and the pop of a pistol, "the way someone else might know birds by their calls." In neighbouring Nagaland, no stranger to violence herself, schools would often accommodate students from Manipur fleeing the heightened tension.

When "fear became ordinary and survival instinctive", Hauzel says she and others like her learned resilience, unwittingly preparing themselves for "a life lived in the shadow of conflict."

How did Manipur reach this point? Hauzel points out that to understand Manipur, one must begin with its geography. While Imphal Valley is at the centre, its land covers just 10% of the State but is home to most of the population, particularly the dominant Meitei community. All around the valley are the hill districts which make up 90% of the terrain, not all hospitable. They are inhabited by at least 38 Scheduled Tribes, mostly belonging to the Naga and Kuki-Zomi/Mizo/Chin groups. The hill people have long argued that the valley has cornered a lion's share of funds, leaving a huge developmental disparity between the valley and the hills.

Hauzel's book is filled with stories about "voices that don't make headlines", and the long, hard road to truth and reconciliation.

Home fires

Women often have to stand up to gendered violence, patriarchal mindsets and other upheavals. Writer Temsula Ao underscores this in her memoir, *Once Upon a Life: Burnt Curry and Bloody Rags* (Zubaan), in which she writes about her "fractured childhood" which was ripped apart by a series of tragedies, not least the loss of her parents in quick succession. For her, an important reason for writing her account was a "sense of wonder" at being able to achieve "a measure of success" from being an "absolute destitute".

The poet, novelist, short story writer and teacher went on to write several best-selling books including *Laburnum For My Head*, *These Hills Called Home*, *Book of Songs* and *The Tombstone in My Garden*. But before that, right after secondary school, due to the circumstances she was in, decisions about her life were taken without taking into account what she wanted. Ao had dreamed of becoming a doctor, but who was going to pay for her studies? Forget education, she found herself stranded without a 'home' to take shelter in. The "obvious solution" the extended family arrived at was marriage. It was a "mad plunge into the unknown" for Ao, and her only weapons of self-defence were "natural instincts and a will to survive."

Early on in her remarkable life, during her high school years in the mid-1950s, she encountered the violent fallout of the Naga freedom movement. Encounters between the insurgents and security forces made the hills of Nagaland, and her village, "almost inaccessible and extremely dangerous."

Everyday struggles

In much of the Northeast, the central theme in literature has been conflict. As Banamallika writes in her Introduction to *Riverside Stories: Writings from Assam* (Zubaan), "...conflict features as a background, in the foreground, in dreams or rather nightmares" in the stories she chose to represent Assam through the decades.

In one of the stories, 'Kaike Atomo' (an everyday story) by Klirni Terangpi, a school teacher, Manai, who has not been paid in months, "buys the safety and perhaps lives of her family by giving away her last remaining pieces of bangles from her wedding. The boy from the forest with a gun, her ex-student, assures her it is for the cause of their community."

This could be the everyday story for many women in the Northeast, carrying the burden of conflict and uncertainty.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Noted writer Victor Hugo was born on February 26, 1802. Here is a quiz on the French romantic writer, his life and works

Abhinaya. K

QUESTION 1
After living in poverty for a year, 20-year-old Hugo secured a pension of 1,000 francs for his book from this King. Identify the book and name the King.

QUESTION 2
Hugo's first play, which was never performed in theatre, came out in 1827. The preface to the text is widely considered as the foundation stone of French Romanticism. Name the text.

QUESTION 3
Hugo's seminal text was translated to Malayalam as *Pavangal*. Name the translator.

QUESTION 4
The text related to the previous question has been adapted on screen several times. The 2012 film adaptation of the book won several accolades including the Oscar. Who directed the 2012 version and who played the character of Madame Thénardier in the movie?

QUESTION 5
This essay by Hugo, written in 1864, is a work of literary criticism and examines the literary geniuses of history. Its title is also the name of a very popular English playwright. Identify the playwright.

Visual question:
Archdeacon Frollo, Captain Phoebus, Pierre Gringoire are characters in this Hugo novel which also prominently features a cathedral. A fire broke out at the cathedral a few years ago and it was subsequently restored. Identify the cathedral. When was the book published? AP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Muhammad Ali defeated this boxer to win his first heavyweight title at this age. **Ans: Sonny Liston; 22 years**
2. The transitional name adopted by the boxer. **Ans: Cassius X**
3. The number of times Ali won the world heavyweight title. **Ans: Three**
4. Ali refused to join the U.S. Army to fight this country. **Ans: Vietnam**
5. Ali defeated George Foreman in 1974 in this country. **Ans: Zaire (now Democratic Republic of the Congo)**
6. After Iraq invaded _____ in 1990, Muhammad Ali played a key role in the release of U.S. hostages. **Ans: Kuwait**
7. Ali was featured in a 1978 DC comics publication in which he teams up with _____ . **Ans: Superman**
Visual: Describe what is happening in the picture. **Ans: Muhammad Ali talks to a young, distressed man who threatens to jump off the ledge of a building. The two later walked out of the building together**
Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Tamal Biswas| Tito Shiladitya| Sunil Madhavan| Sonali Das

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the meaning of "gonna"?
"Gonna", "wanna", and "gotta" are all examples of Americanisms. Many Americans in their speech reduce "going to", "want to", and "got to" to "gonna", "wanna", and "gotta" respectively. The final "a" in all these words is pronounced like the "a" in "China".

I wanna go home. You wanna come with me? I am gonna take the bus. Are you gonna walk home? I've gotta go. I've gotta finish my homework.

Although one finds "gonna" in informal styles of writing – comics, personal letters – it is not acceptable in formal writing.

Why are some TV programmes called "soaps"?
"Soap operas" or "soaps", as they are sometimes called, existed even before television was invented. The original soaps were broadcast on the radio. These serials were broadcast in the afternoons on all weekdays and were targeted at housewives. Even today, in countries like America and Canada, soaps like "Bold and the Beautiful" and "Guiding Light" are broadcast in the afternoons, Monday through Friday.

As to your question, why such serials are called "soaps", the answer is fairly simple. The companies that usually sponsored these programmes manufactured soaps and detergents! A good reason for calling such programmes "soaps", wouldn't you say? Since the plots in the soaps were rather sentimental and complicated, they reminded a lot of people of the "opera". Hence the term "soap opera". The term was adopted by the television industry when it started to produce and broadcast such programmes. Although not all "soaps" are sponsored by soap companies these days, the term continues to be used to refer to such serials.

How is the word "alias" pronounced?
The first "a" is pronounced like the "a" in "fate", "ate", and "date". The "i" is like the "i" in "fit", "kit", and "bit". While the final "a" is like the "a" in "amount", "about" and "alike", the "s" is pronounced like the "s" in "sit", "sat" and "sip". The stress is on the first syllable.

An alias is a false name under which someone – usually a criminal – travels. It can also be used to refer to one's nickname.

Charles Sobhraj used several aliases. The alias he used was Surendran.

What is the difference between "envelope" and "envelop"?
The word "envelope" is a noun. It is the cover in which you put your letters. The "e" in the second syllable is like the "a" in "China" and the final syllable "lope" rhymes with "hope", "cope", and "rope". The stress is on the first syllable.

I need to put all the papers in an envelope.

"Envelop", on the other hand, is a verb. When you envelop something, you cover or surround it completely. Every morning the mist envelops the house.

Published in The Hindu on September 21, 1999.

Word of the day

Actuated:
moved to action

Synonyms: motivated

Usage: *He is a man actuated by unworthy desires.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/actuatedpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈæktʃu.eɪt/, /ˈæktju.eɪt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Seized vehicles pile up at police stations sparking fire risk fear

A senior officer notes that such heaps of vehicles are an open invitation to fire accidents that could be triggered by a minor oversight, such as a discarded cigarette or matchstick

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

Thousands of seized vehicles are gathering dust on the premises of police stations and even on footpaths outside stations across the city. FILE PHOTO

The fire at Banaswadi Police Station on Wednesday that damaged more than 20 vehicles may be an isolated incident, but several other police stations across the city remain vulnerable to similar hazards.

Thousands of seized vehicles are gathering dust within police station premises and even on the footpaths outside stations across the city. "Several police station premises look like garages or abandoned land. Some of the vehicles are nearly a decade old," a senior officer from the north division said.

The officer noted that such heaps of vehicles at the stations are an open invitation to fire accidents that could be triggered by a minor oversight, such as a discarded cigarette or matchstick.

The situation arose after the police department was asked to shift seized vehicles from Jakkarayanakere, where they were usually dumped. At least four officers *The Hindu* spoke to confirmed that the shift was the result of political interference, reportedly aimed at monetising the land given its prime location.

However, according to police sources, years of neglect by officers who failed to auction the seized vehicles after cases were settled also contributed to the problem.

Failed auction process

"There is an SOP for the auction of seized vehicles. Had the rules been followed and the vehicles auctioned in a timely manner, such a situation would not have arisen," a senior police officer admitted.

The officer explained that investigating officers did not bother to clear the vehicles after dumping them in Jakkarayanakere. Maintenance of the land was negligible. Now, with sudden orders to vacate the site, there is no alternative space, leading to congested station premises.

"The premises of some stations are large, so vehicles from stations facing space constraints are being moved there," the officer said. However, he added that this will not resolve the issue permanently.

Police parade ground

Senior police officers noted that the Jakkarayanakere facility, spread over about five acres, belongs to the police department. In 2021, the High Court had orally observed that the city police must ensure that no vehicles are parked on footpaths around police stations before taking action against the public for footpath parking violations.

Following this observation, the Bengaluru City Police moved all seized vehicles to a single location until their release or auction.

However, residents in the area began complaining about frequent sightings of snakes, and a fire incident occurred in 2025. This prompted the order for police to vacate the site. A politician reportedly sought to use the land for commercial establishments, but the police have now decided to convert it into a parade ground.

Vacant govt. lands

According to sources, Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner N. Jagadeesha has provided a list of vacant government land in the city where the police can shift the seized vehicles. The police are identifying suitable land parcels, which will be finalised soon, the officer said.

An officer added that the auction of old vehicles has begun, which will help reduce the burden on police station premises.

However, another senior officer pointed out that the auction process is not simple, as it involves legal complications. The vehicles will have to be cleared in phases, which will buy some time for the department, especially given the shortage of staff to oversee the process.

The officer noted that a strict order has to be passed at least now to follow SOP for timely auctioning of vehicles.

Six-month-old's finger cut during discharge at private hospital

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A six-month-old baby suffered a serious injury to his little finger allegedly due to medical negligence during the discharge process at Chinmaya Mission Hospital in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

The Indiranagar police registered an FIR charging the nurse, doctor and hospital management under Section 125(b) (acts that endanger human life or personal safety through rash or negligent behaviour) of BNS.

According to the complaint, Vijay Kumar J., 29, a resident of Indiranagar, had admitted his six-month-old son, Balakumar, to the hospital on February 19. The baby was under treatment from February 19 to 24.

On February 24, around 3 p.m., the hospital decided to discharge the infant. While the discharge formalities were under way, a nurse, Anita, allegedly removed the IV drip. But, during the process of removing the dressing, she reportedly cut the baby's little finger on the left hand, causing severe pain and injury.

The parents immediately rushed the baby for emergency care within the hospital, where treatment was administered.

However, the complainant alleged that, initially, the hospital staff informed them that the injury was minor, and would heal on its own as the child was very young.

Legal action sought

Vijay Kumar has accused the nurse and the hospital administration of negligence, stating that the incident caused serious injury, pain, and trauma to his infant son. He has sought appropriate legal action against the nurse and the management of Chinmaya Mission Hospital.

Gruha Arogya scheme to be expanded to GBA areas soon

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the proposed rollout, the Health Department aims to replicate the rural model in urban areas

The State government will soon expand Gruha Arogya to Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) areas, marking a major step towards strengthening urban public health delivery.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao and Principal Secretary (Health) Harsh Gupta on Wednesday discussed the expansion at a meeting with Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. The deliberations focused on strategies to adapt and scale up the successful rural healthcare initiative to urban settings.

Gruha Arogya has recorded significant success in rural Karnataka, with dedicated health workers reaching over 35 lakh families and screening more than 1 crore people for 14 major non-communicable diseases. The programme has emerged as a model for doorstep preventive healthcare, with officials citing encouraging public response and measurable improvements in early detection. With the proposed rollout of Gruha Arogya 2.0 in GBA regions, the Health Department aims to replicate the rural model in urban areas, ensuring systematic household outreach, timely screening, and continuity of care. It seeks to shift the focus of public health from reactive treatment to proactive prevention, Mr. Rao said.

State launches free prophylaxis treatment for haemophilia patients

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a significant step toward improving the quality of life for those with rare genetic blood disorders, the Karnataka government on Wednesday launched the 'Kusuma Sanjeevini' programme. Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao inaugurated the programme.

The initiative is aimed at providing high-end prophylactic treatment and emergency transport services free of cost to haemophilia patients across the State.

Treatment protocol

Haemophilia, a rare inherited disorder where blood fails to clot normally due to a deficiency in coagulation factors VIII or IX, has long forced patients into a gruelling treatment cycle. Traditionally, patients required intravenous factor replacement therapy two-three times a week for life – a process that is particularly painful for children with difficult venous access.

Under the new scheme, the State is introducing Emicizumab, a non-factor monoclonal antibody. Unlike traditional infusions, this drug is administered subcutaneously (under the skin) just once a month. Results from a pilot group of 200 patients showed "zero bleeds" over a year, suggesting the drug could effectively prevent the joint deformities and physical disabilities common in chronic cases.

With this rollout, Karnataka becomes the first large State in South India, after Kerala, to implement a prophylactic programme of this scale. "By moving to a monthly subcutaneous dose, we are helping these patients, especially children, return to the mainstream of society, allowing them to attend school and play like their peers," the Health Minister said during the launch.

The State has sanctioned ₹42.55 crore for the programme, with ₹17 crore specifically dedicated to the procurement of the new drug. While the annual cost of treatment for a single patient can reach ₹5 lakh, the government will provide it entirely free of charge. Currently, 2,621 haemophilia cases are registered in Karnataka, including 2,089 with Haemophilia-A. The State has identified 1,000 high-risk patients to be transitioned to this new prophylactic regimen immediately.

Free transport

To further ease the burden on families, the government launched a dedicated 108 ambulance "pick-up and drop" service. Given that bleeding episodes can quickly become life-threatening, these ambulances will ensure rapid transport to any of the 36 Integrated Treatment Centres for Hemoglobinopathies and Haemophilia (ICHH) located across the State.

Battling blaze

Under control: Fire and Emergency Services personnel dousing the fire at a hardware shop at Kumbarpet in Bengaluru on Wednesday. Preliminary investigations suggest that a short circuit may have triggered the blaze, however, no casualty was reported. SUDHAKARA JAIN

KCPS urges govt. to halt enforcement of new regulations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Council of Pre-Schools (KCPS) has urged the State government to halt the enforcement of "impossible-to-perform" mandates that threaten the closure of more than 25,000 standalone pre-schools across the State.

Addressing a press conference on Wednesday, the KCPS raised concerns over the new regulations put in place for functioning of pre-schools and urged the School Education Minister to constitute a high level committee to simplify rules. The council stated that new regulations will lead to unemployment of over 4.5 lakh women, which includes teachers, helpers, and support staff. "These regulations, if not immediately redrafted, will trigger an unprecedented socio-economic crisis, resulting in mass unemployment for women and a crushing financial burden on millions of young families. Closure of standalone schools will lead to a 500% increase in fees as this grants unfair monopoly to large K-12 institutions," it added.

As shared by KCPS, the new regulations mandate a 30-year lease requirement even for standalone pre-schools at residential premises, which is impossible to comply with. "No landlord in the private market will ever fulfil, making it legally impossible for 90% of the schools to operate. Even the requirement of classroom sizes of 18 ft/20 ft (360 sq. ft) ignores the homely, secure environment," it stated.

High Court lays down procedure to access spouse's income tax returns in matrimonial disputes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has issued comprehensive guidelines for spouses to obtain income tax returns and financial records of their partners in maintenance proceedings, as the law does not permit couples in matrimonial disputes to access each other's financial data under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

The court said that trial courts, in every proceeding relating to alimony/maintenance, at the earliest opportunity and preferably at the first effective hearing, enquire into the financial capacity of both parties and specifically ascertain whether either party wishes to seek production of financial records from the Income Tax Department or any other authority.

Guidelines

- Spouses must seek income tax records through trial courts, not via RTI
- Trial courts should issue notice to spouse before passing production order
- Applications for records must be decided within 14 days of filing
- Courts may summon records *suo motu* and draw adverse inferences for non-disclosure.
- Iincome Tax Department must comply with court orders within 21 working days
- All records should be produced to court in sealed covers marked 'confidential'
- Applicants must execute undertaking to use information solely for maintenance proceedings
- Courts to redact irrelevant third-party information from records before disclosure
- Guidelines apply to records from GST Department, EPFO, banks, and other authorities

The trial courts should not determine maintenance based merely on oral assertions or unverified claims regarding income, particularly when the income of either party is disputed, but should *suo motu* consider invoking its powers to summon documentary evidence, including I-T returns and related financial records, the court said. Justice Suraj Govindaraj delivered the verdict while allowing a petition filed by the Income Tax Department and setting aside an order of the Central Information Commission, which had directed the department to furnish a man's returns to his estranged wife.

Accepting the department's contention that I-T returns, which are "personal information" of the assessee cannot be disclosed under the RTI Act, except in larger public interest, the court also found that the trial courts have power in law to summon I-T returns and other financial details in matrimonial disputes. However, on noticing the genuine difficulties faced by spouses in establishing the true income of their partners for determining just maintenance/alimony, the court issued the guidelines to be followed by all the trial courts in Karnataka and the I-T-Department.

The guidelines mandate that spouses seeking financial records must file applications before the trial courts, which have to examine requirement of summoning I-T returns and pass 'production order' asking the department to submit the returns in a sealed cover. The trial courts must complete hearing on such applications within 14 days by issuing notice to opposite spouse, and the Income Tax Department must comply with judicial orders within 21 working days through the designated nodal officers, the court said.

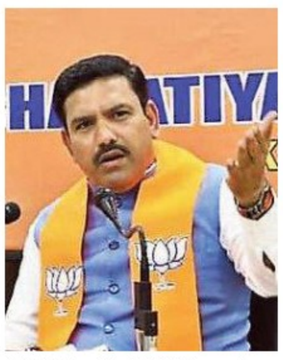
The guidelines also incorporate safeguards to protect the assessee's spouse's privacy as the trial courts will have to open the documents from the I-T department in the presence of both parties and afford inspection. Before any disclosure, the applicant-spouse must execute a written undertaking on affidavit that the information shall be used solely for the maintenance proceedings and not disclosed to any third party or used for any other purpose. The trial court's can also refuse to give photocopy of the returns and also allow only inspection of the returns and taking notes of only relevant portions, the court said. Any misuse of the information obtained, including use for purposes other than the maintenance proceedings, should be viewed as contempt of court and abuse of process of law, the court said.

Gender neutral

Making it clear that the guidelines apply equally to applications filed by wives seeking husband's information and husbands seeking wife's information, the court also said that the guidelines extend to obtaining financial records sought from the Goods and Services Tax Department, Employees Provident Fund Organisation, banks, and other institutions holding financial information of a spouse.

BJP warns of protest if recruitment process is not initiated

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



BJP State chief B.Y. Vijayendra alleged the government is unable to start recruitments as it does not have funds.

Taking exception to the State government not going ahead with recruitments to government posts as promised by the Congress before the Assembly elections, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra on Wednesday warned of a protest if the recruitment process was not initiated.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru, Mr. Vijayendra alleged that the Congress government was unable to go ahead with recruitments as it did not have funds owing to the financial burden of implementing the guarantee schemes.

He urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to place the truth before people of the State and tender an apology to them for not implementing the promise of recruitments.

He alleged that the Congress government had been lying about it being financially sound, but the fact that there were 59,000 vacancies in the Education Department and another 30,000 in the Health Department had exposed the reality

He described Mr. Siddaramaiah as "a pathological liar" and said while he has claimed of having filled up 40,000 vacancies, the government had replied in the Assembly that only 8,157 vacant posts had been filled.

The BJP State president recalled Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's speech at a rally during the Assembly elections in which he had said that 2.5 lakh vacant posts will be filled in one year of coming to power.

Hope drives youth to Dharwad's centres

Many come to Dharwad with dreams of securing a government job as they believe the city with its 'educational atmosphere' will help them study and crack competitive examinations; in the last couple of years, coaching centres have mushroomed in the city and so have what are called study halls

Girish Pattanashetti
HUBBALLI

Hard at work: A fully occupied study hall in Dharwad. Candidates spend anywhere between 10 and 12 hours in these study halls bringing their own study materials to prepare for competitive examinations.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

While Dharwad has become the epicentre of protests by job aspirants in the last couple of months, it has also brought to the fore another aspect of the city, which has traditionally been known as the centre of culture and education in North Karnataka.

In the last couple of years, coaching centres have mushroomed in the city and so have what are called "study halls", which are libraries of sorts. Surrounding them is an economy, which is very different from the traditional educational and cultural ecosystem that Dharwad has always been known for.

The life of these candidates revolves around these coaching centres, study halls, rooms (for some PGs), and dining messes scattered across Saptapur, Srinagar, Jayanagar, Kalyan Nagar, and adjoining localities. They spend an average of ₹5,000 to ₹6,000 per month for food and accommodation, excluding fees for appearing for competitive examinations.

Viresh Naregal from Banavasi in Uttara Kannada district is among those whose aspiration for public service is supported by parents belonging to a middle-income group.

The only son of a retired government employee, Mr. Naregal's dream is to crack the Karnataka Administrative Services (KAS) and he has been burning the midnight oil for the last four years. "Now because of the delay in recruitments, my parents are asking me to return with a promise to mobilise funds for a small business. But I want to be in public service. It is not just for job security, it allows you to serve people," Mr. Naregal told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Naregal shares his rented house with six others, including Karthik from Hosapete and Shrimanth Ammanni from Kalaburagi, who come from middle-class families with small land holdings.

There are hundreds like them who come to Dharwad with dreams of securing a government job as they believe that the city with its "educational atmosphere" will help them study and crack the competitive examinations.

"For long, Dharwad has been an education centre. Cashing in on the brand name of Dharwad, over 30 coaching centres have come up. After getting coaching for six months or so, these candidates turn to the around 150 study halls scattered in various localities," said Bhavanishankar Gowda, State co-convener of Job Aspirants' Struggle Committee.

Every day, hundreds of candidates – mostly graduates with a dream of government job – frequent these 24/7 study halls, marked by narrow cubicles and chairs.

Affordability factor

While it is common for job aspirants from various districts of North Karnataka, including Koppal, Vijayapura, Raichur, Bidar, Ballari, Bagalkot, Kalaburagi, Haveri, and others, to depend on Dharwad for the exam preparations, of late, the affordability factor is drawing candidates from South Karnataka districts, including Kolar and Chickballapur.

Unlike Mr. Naregal, whose family continues to support his dream albeit with some difficulty, not many candidates can afford to stay back for longer periods in Dharwad.

In order to pursue their dream, they end up working part time, doing catering jobs, working as security guards, and in some extreme cases doing masonry work to meet expenses. Some get free food along with monthly wages for serving food in the mess.

Times of desperation

"There are hundreds who stay back, working part time and keep preparing only with the hope of cracking an examination. However, desperation is creeping in because of the inordinate delay in recruitment," Mr. Naregal said, adding that this angst among aspirants over the issue is valid.

(This is the first of a three-part series)

DKS bats for replacing old guard with fresh faces in Cabinet

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A file photo of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at a Cabinet meeting at Nandi Hills in Chickballapur district.

As the Congress high command is expected to take a decision after next month's State Budget session on a possible leadership change in Karnataka, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has supported the induction of new faces into the Cabinet. He said the party cannot rely on the old guard indefinitely and needs fresh thinking for its future.

Current composition

The government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah currently includes several senior Ministers such as H.C. Mahadevappa, G. Parameshwara, H.K. Patil, K.J. George, and Ramalinga Reddy, all of whom have held key portfolios in the past. Speaking to reporters, Mr. Shivakumar, who is also the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) chief, backed the demand of first-time MLAs seeking representation in the Cabinet. "The party needs new blood and new thinking. I support fresh blood," he said, emphasising the need for a generational shift.

He was responding to questions about first-time MLAs writing to senior party leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, seeking a place in the Cabinet during the proposed reshuffle.

Meanwhile, members of the Legislative Council (MLCs) have also demanded Cabinet berths, citing minimal representation.

In a joint representation addressed to the Congress high command and the State leadership, the legislators urged that at least five first-time MLAs be inducted as Ministers.

"As you are aware, the people of Karnataka have elected 38 members to the Legislative Assembly from the Indian National Congress for the first time, sending a clear message that they want to see new and young faces in the legislature," the MLAs stated in their letter.

Amiable solution

With internal differences within the ruling Congress unlikely to subside soon, the party high command is expected to summon State leaders, including Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar, to work out an amicable solution on the leadership issue.

Bengaluru GAFX 2026 from tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government, in association with the Association of Bangalore Animation Industry (ABAI), will host the seventh edition of Bengaluru GAFX 2026 from February 27 to March 1, at Hotel Lalit Ashok.

The event will bring together creators, studios and industry leaders from across animation, VFX, gaming, comics, XR and immersive media, said a release.

It will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

A major focus will be Artificial Intelligence in animation, VFX and gaming.

'State focusing on testing quality of drinking water in rural areas'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Accusing the Centre of failing to release its share of funds under the Jal Jeevan Mission to test the quality of drinking water in the last two years, RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge on Wednesday said the State government had given priority for testing water quality and had spent over ₹52 crore so far since last year.

"Though the Centre has not released its share of funds for testing the quality of drinking water, Karnataka has borne the Centre's share to ensure that people in rural areas get supply of quality drinking water," the Minister said in an official statement.

As a result, the State had not witnessed any incidents of people taking ill owing to contaminated water this year, he maintained.

Labs across districts

He said the State had water testing labs in all districts and 47 taluks which were testing the water with benchmarking standards of BIS: 10500-2012 since 2023-24.

Mr. Kharge said a total of 1 lakh water samples from rural areas had been tested for quality in 2023-24, 3.9 lakh samples in 2024-25, and 2.46 lakh samples in 2025-26. Of them, 9.34 lakh samples had chemicals while 7,244 samples had bacteria.

The government had supplied water through alternative sources with respect to 49,309 samples that were found to be contaminated, he explained.

An MoU had been signed with the University of Agricultural Sciences-Raichur to test the quality of drinking water being supplied to rural areas of Kalyana Karnataka region, he noted.

The university's microbiology labs were taking up the task of water quality testing, he said.

Task forces

To ensure strict supervision and surveillance of water quality testing, the government had set up district and taluk-level task forces.

These task forces had been directed to hold meetings every month to ensure supply of quality drinking water to rural areas, the Minister said.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

PVS Vencata Subramaniam
23.11.1964 - 25.2.2026
Cremation at Besant Nagar Crematorium between 10:30 am to 11:30 am on 26.2.2026.
No.10, Belvedere, Anna Salai, Palavakkam, Chennai-600041
Family & Friends

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

10th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Birth 22.04.1935 Death 26.02.2016
Shri V.Narayana Rao Panth
(Retd. Audit Officer, AG'S Office, Chennai)
Fondly Remembered by
Sons, Son in law, Daughter, Daughters in law, Grand sons Grand Daughters & Great Grand Daughter.

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981,
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575,
from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Online booking: www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

Tamil Nadu Power Generation Corporation Ltd
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the Work
178	SE / P&A / MTPS-1	Procurement Erection Testing and Commissioning of New Inergen IG 541 fire suppression system of Unit

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / Opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in
DIPR/1400/Tender/2026

Kalyan Singh Super Speciality Cancer Institute
C.G. City, Sultanpur Road, Lucknow-226002
Website: https://cancerinstitute.edu.in, Email: jdmm.sscih@gmail.com
GeM Bid Notice
It is hereby informed that a bids No. is as follow:-

Sr. No.	Name of Service	Bid No. & Date	Pre-bid Meeting Date & Time
1.	Operation And Maintenance of Fire Fighting System-Complete System	GEM/2026/B/7289402 Dated 25.02.2026	27.02.2026 15:00 P.M.

The Bid uploaded on GeM Portal for Procurement of **Service Bid** at KSSSCI. All interested service providers/bidders are required to submit their bids on GeM Portal in accordance with the terms and conditions of the GeM bid documents. The Director reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.
The Tender documents are available on the website of the Institute www.cancerinstitute.edu.in
Advt No:- KSSSCI/Tender-27/2025-26 Director

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Belagavi Division, Belagavi-590016
Phone No.: 0831-2467103 E-Mail: eepwdbgm01@gmail.com
No. PWD/BGM/TND/TA/AE/2025-26/7880 Date: 25.02.2026
ITEM RATE TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPP PORTAL)
The Executive Engineer, PWD Belagavi Division Belagavi invites item rate tenders from the eligible contractors registered in KPP Portal in Public Works Department under KW-1, 2, 3 & 4Standard tender documents for a work under **5054 KRDCL, 4059 SCP/TSP Works, 4059 CMIDP Works, 5054 MDR Improvements, 3054 SH Bridge Maintenance, 4059 Dept Buildings, 3054 MDR Maintenance and 8443 Deposit Contribution** total 27number of works with minimum and maximum tender amounts of **Rs. 7.99 Lakhs** and **Rs. 397.86 Lakhs** respectively and minimum and maximum **EMD** amount of **Rs. 15,000/-** and **Rs. 5,96,800/- Part-1**: Tender receipt Date is on **06.03.2026 up to 4.30 PM** , Technical Bid Opening Date is on **07.03.2026 after 4.45 PM, Part-2**: Tender receipt Date is on **16.03.2026 up to 4.30 PM ,** Technical Bid Opening Date is on **17.03.2026 after 4.45 PM, Part-3:** Tender receipt Date is on **20.03.2026 upto 4.30 PM** and Technical Bid Opening Date is on **23.03.2026 after 4.45 PM.** For more information contact the office of the undersigned and www.Kppp.karnataka.gov.in after **25.02.2026.** (Note:1) If no bids received, 3 days One Time auto extension activated.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Public Works Department. Belagavi Division. Belagavi.
DIPR/BELAGAVI/1936/2025-26/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - ST & SC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR, ITDA, NILGIRI
e-Procurement Notice
e-procurement Notice Bid Identification No. ITDANGR-02/2025-26
Notice No. 95 / ITDA, Date:- 23.02.2026
The project Administrator, ITDA, Nilgiri on behalf of Governor of odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in online mode for construction of the work detailed below:

1. Nature of the work	:	Const. of 1st floor of Auditorium Building of SCSTRTI, Bhubaneswar & 2nd & 3rd floor of PVTG building of SCSTRTI, Bhubaneswar., etc.
2. Total No. of work	:	2 (Two) nos. (Approximately)
3. Estimated Cost	:	Rs. 1,49,61,400/- to Rs. 2,99,96,400/- (Approximately)
4. Class of Contractor	;	"B" Class & "B" & "A" Class.
5. Period of Completion	:	Eleven Calender Months
6. Availability of Bids	:	10.00 AM of 02.03.2026 to 5.00 PM of 16.03.2026.
7. Date of opening & scrutiny to technical bid	:	11.00 A.M of 17.03.2026.

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. The details will be available in the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in from 10.00 AM of 02.03.2026 to 5.00 PM of 16.03.2026.
Project Administrator, ITDA, Nilgiri
26001/4/2526 OIPR-26001/26055/1/25-26/0001

ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮರಾಜೇಂದ್ರ ಮೃಗಾಲಯ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಎಂವೈಜೆಡ್/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2025–26 ದಿ: 21.02.2026
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ)
ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ 1)Indent No.ZAK/2025-26/AUCTION32 Dt.21.02.26ರ ಅನ್ವಯ (FDR) Fixed Deposit Receipt ಅನ್ನು ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಕೃತ ಬಾಂಕ್‌ನಿಂದ ಬಡ್ಡಿ ದರವನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು ಸ್ಥಿರ ಠೇವಣಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇರಿಸಲು ಕರೆಯುವ ಇ–ಹರಾಜು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ರನ್ವಯ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/– ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮರಾಜೇಂದ್ರ ಮೃಗಾಲಯ, ಮೈಸೂರು
DIPR/DDMYS/1719/KSMCA/973/2025-26

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Mahalakshmipuram Division, 12th Main, 11th Cross, West of Chord Road, Bengaluru West City Corporation, (Office Phone No: 080-23197031), Bengaluru.
No: EE/MLP/TEND/E-PROC/14/2025-26 Date: 25.02.2026
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) NOTIFICATION
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK KPP Portal only)(Two Cover System)
Tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, (Mahalakshmipuram) Division for the services mentioned below under the KTPP Act 2000 through electronic two cover tendering system (K-Procurement) in prescribed format from registered agency is with I.T, E.S.I, P.F, Labour Department and other statutory authority of Government of Karnataka Organizations.
The Tender Document can be downloaded from the GOK K-Procurement (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) website on payment of prescribed fee noted against item of work (Non-refundable) in the form of e-Payment through K-Procurement Platform. The tenderer should accompany a copy of the Registration Certificate valid upto the Block Period and shall be submitted through K-Procurement Portal.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	To maintain operation, supervision and maintenance of Dr. Rajkumar Indoor Stadium and Auditorium located at Mico Layout in Ward No.49, Nagapura in Good Condition. **EMD: Rs. 1,41,500/-. Period for completion of work:** 5 Years/60 Months **Cost of tender form in Rs.:** As per E-Procurement.

Calendar of Events: 1) Last date & time for Queries (only through online): **06.03.2026 upto 3.00 p.m.** (2) Pre-bid meeting at the office of Chief Engineer, R.R.Nagara Zone-I : **06.03.2026 upto 3.30 p.m.** (3) Last date for submission of tender document: 12.03.2026 upto 4.00 p.m. (4) Opening of Technical Bid: 13.03.2026 at 4.30 p.m. (5) Opening of Financial Bid: Based on the approval of Technical Bid financial bid will be opened.
Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or visit KPP Portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mahalakshmipuram Division,
Bengaluru West City Corporation

INBRIEF

Rahul to lay foundation stone for landslide victims' homes

Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, is scheduled to lay the foundation stone for the new houses to be built by the Congress for the survivors of the 2024 Mundakkai-Chooralmala landslide in Wayanad, Kerala, on Thursday. Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, MP, will be present at the event at Kalpetta. The event has been scheduled for 2.30 p.m. A release said that Mr. Gandhi will land on Thursday morning at the Kannur airport.

Milk adulteration: 15 persons still critical, reports awaited

The health condition of 15 persons, including seven women and three children below five years, who are undergoing treatment in private hospitals for acute renal failure after alleged consumption of adulterated milk in Rajamahendravaram, remains critical. By Wednesday, five people have died of acute renal failure. These 15 survivors are among 106 families who consumed milk supplied by the same vendor between February 16 and 18.

Street dog bites nine-year-old boy on face in Vijayawada

A nine-year-old boy suffered serious injuries after a street dog bit him on his face at One Town in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, on Tuesday. The boy had accidentally fell on the dog after losing balance on his bicycle, CCTV footage showed. Doctors reportedly said the child needed two more days of observation. As per B. Somasekhar Reddy, Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation, the dog that attacked the boy was recently sterilised and vaccinated.

Kerala Minister injured in scuffle; CPI(M) launches stir

The episode occurred amid protests against the Health Minister by KSU activists at Kannur railway station; she has been admitted to a hospital where a team of experts will assess her condition

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Chaotic chapter: Police officers shield Veena George during the KSU protest at the Kannur railway station on Wednesday. S.K. MOHAN

Protests by the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and its affiliate groups erupted across Kerala after Health Minister Veena George sustained injuries to her neck and hand during a scuffle between black-flag-wielding Kerala Students Union (KSU) activists and the police at the Kannur railway station on Wednesday.

The Minister, who was scheduled to leave for Thiruvananthapuram, was admitted to the ICU of the Kannur District Hospital. A medical bulletin from the hospital stated that an expert team had been assigned to assess the severity of the Minister's neck injury.

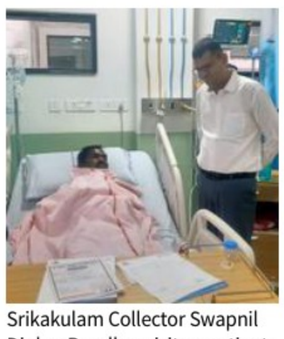
The police arrested five KSU workers over the incident and charged them with attempted murder.

The episode occurred amid widespread protests against the Minister by the Opposition in recent days, who have alleged a collapse of the public health sector. It sparked strong reactions and protest marches by Left-leaning outfits across the State, leading to effigy-burning and confrontations with Congress workers.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan visited Ms. George at the hospital and described the incident as "a heinous attack" on a woman holding public office. He said Kerala's public health system had emerged as the best in the country, according to surveys and audits by various agencies, including the NITI Aayog.

One dead, 76 ill as contaminated water triggers diarrhoea outbreak in A.P.

Harish Gilai
SRIKAKULAM/VISAKHAPATNAM



Srikakulam Collector Swapnil Dinkar Pundkar visits a patient at a hospital in Srikakulam.

Srikakulam district in Andhra Pradesh is on high alert after the death of a 43-year-old man and the hospitalisation of 76 others owing to a diarrhoea outbreak reportedly caused by contaminated drinking water.

Among those hospitalised, two elderly patients are critical.

The district administration has suspended municipal water supply to the affected neighbourhoods and has intensified sanitation measures in these areas. Medical camps have been set up at two locations, and three ambulances are on standby. A door-to-door survey has also begun to assess the health condition of the residents.

The incident came to light on Monday, when a few patients were admitted to hospitals with diarrhoea. The number of cases gradually rose by Tuesday, and the death on Tuesday triggered panic among the residents.

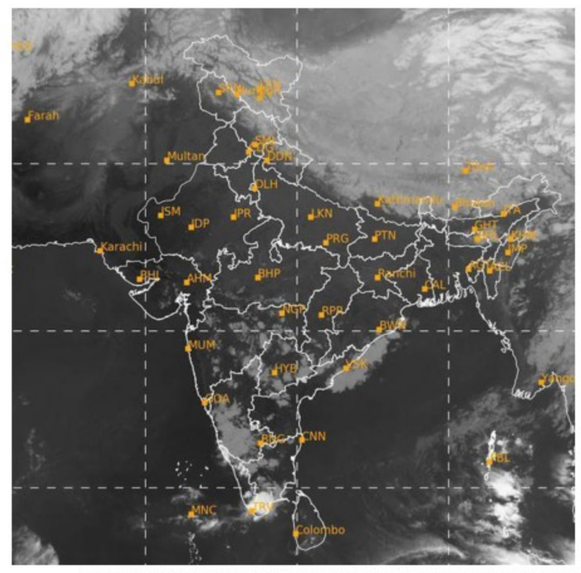
Gondu Shankar, MLA, and District Collector Swapnil Dinkar Pundkar visited the family of the deceased and handed over a cheque for ₹10 lakh.

The residents blamed the outbreak on water contamination, and alleged that in certain areas, municipal water pipelines ran close to or intersected drainage canals. They said they noticed a change in the colour of the water supplied on Saturday and Sunday. There was a foul smell too, they said.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday reviewed the situation following the outbreak and the reported milk contamination in Rajamahendravaram.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Telangana, north interior Karnataka and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	31.2	17.8	Kozhikode	13	34.0	23.7
Ahmedabad	—	36.4	21.8	Kurnool	—	36.0	21.7
Aizawl	—	28.6	16.9	Lucknow	—	30.4	15.4
Allahabad	—	30.8	14.0	Madurai	—	35.0	24.0
Bengaluru	—	31.6	19.9	Mangaluru	—	32.0	24.5
Bhopal	—	30.6	13.8	Mumbai	—	32.1	20.3
Bhubaneswar	—	33.3	18.8	Mysuru	—	33.0	19.0
Chandigarh	—	27.8	13.3	New Delhi	—	30.2	12.6
Chennai	—	31.8	24.3	Patna	—	29.0	18.5
Coimbatore	—	34.0	23.2	Port Blair	5	31.2	25.9
Dehradun	—	27.7	12.4	Puducherry	—	31.4	23.2
Gangtok	9	16.6	8.1	Pune	—	36.3	20.1
Goa	—	33.6	24.0	Raipur	—	33.1	19.8
Guwahati	—	31.1	15.7	Ranchi	—	27.0	13.2
Hubballi	—	33.0	20.0	Shillong	—	19.0	9.8
Hyderabad	—	32.6	20.9	Shimla	—	20.6	9.0
Imphal	—	27.6	11.1	Srinagar	—	20.8	1.5
Jaipur	—	30.8	18.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.8	25.2
Kochi	19	31.4	24.6	Tiruchi	—	34.1	23.0
Kohima	—	20.0	11.4	Vijayawada	—	33.6	22.0
Kolkata	—	30.8	20.0	Visakhapatnam	—	32.0	24.3

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	..—	113	51	... 223	...286	
Bengaluru	...6	..31	16	... 122	...100	
Chennai	...6	..14	55	 46	87	
Delhi	.35	.91	97	... 279	...344	
Hyderabad	...8	8	45	 74	97	
Kolkata	...8	..97	35	... 120	...118	
Lucknow	...3	..11	28	... 233	...137	
Mumbai	.10	..72	..8	... 105	...120	
Pune	..—	123	79	... 134	...118	
Visakhapatnam	..—	..—	18	..... —	..... —	..... —

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Agartala, Tripura recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 356 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Naharlagun, Arunachal Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

PUBLIC NOTICE

The State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority-Karnataka (constituted by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) Government of India), has accorded the expansion and modified environmental clearance for "Embassy Manyata Business Park" comprising of IT/ITES park, offices, commercial, retails, hotels, convention centre and banquet hall on the property bearing several survey numbers in Rachenahalli and Thanisandra Villages of K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East AND Nagawara Village of Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore Urban Dist, being developed by M/s. Manyata Promoters Private Limited, vide order No. SEIAA 201 CON 2025 dated 21.02.2026. The said copy of environment clearance is available with the KSPCB / SEIAA office and the website of MoEFCC/SEIAA at **https://parivesh.nic.in**

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
Municipal Corporation Amritsar
Tender Reference No. E-Tender Notice No. 172 Date 24.02.2026

The Department of	: Municipal Corporation, Amritsar Invites Bid for "Construction of Heritage Entrance Gate around Walled City Amritsar" (Amt. Rs. 6,08,05,561/-)
Closing Date and Time	: 12.03.2026 upto 03:00 PM
EMD	: 2% of Estimate Amount .
For Detail log onto	: https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
Note	: Any Corrigendum(s) to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only.

Superintending Engineer(c)
Municipal Corporation,
Amritsar.
1596/12/2025-26/8763

Public Works Department
Chikkaballapur Division, Chikkaballapur
I.F.T No.20/2025-26 Date:20.02.2026

(For Road/bridges/buildings–Improvements/Construction/ maint & services–As per SBD KW 1,2&4 in Two Tender Document System (Two Cover)

On behalf of The Governor of Karnataka, as per KPPP Act 2000, the undersigned invite tenders for works in two cover system through KPP Portal from eligible contractors registered in PWD. Those interested in participating in the tender can submit the tenders from **Date: 20.02.2026 to 02.03.2026 09.03.2026 and Date: 24.02.2026 to 11.03.2026 up to 04:00 pm.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during hours on works days or from websites **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- EE, PWD Division, Chikkaballapur.
DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPUR/R.O.NO:453/KSMCA/2025-26

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)
KPTCL invites bids for the following works:

I. No.: CEE/Tr.(Op)ZB/SEE(O)/AE-2/BIAL-457(4)/2025-26/10904 Date: 25.02.2026
Bid Enquiry No.: **KPTCL/CEE/T(O)Z/BZ/PTK-24(CALL-3)**, for the work of "Providing additional 11kV Switchgears at **66/11kV Rajanukunte sub-station** coming under Operations Division, BIAL Begur in Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District on **Partial Turnkey Basis** including supply of all matching materials **(Excluding Supply of 11kV Switchgears)**/equipments and erection(including civil works) of all materials/equipments, testing and commissioning".

II. No.:CEE/Tr.(Op)ZB/SEE(O)/AE-2/BIAL/2025-26/10905 Date: 25.02.2026
Bid Enquiry No.: **KPTCL/CEE/T(O)Z/BZ/TTK-09/CALL-3,** for the work of "Replacement of 2x220V Battery Charger set at **220/66/11kV BIAL Begur R/s** in Operations Division BIAL Begur, on **Total Turnkey Basis** including supply of all matching materials/equipments and erection (including civil works) of all materials/equipments, testing and commissioning".

The Bids will be received through electronic tender mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiries in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging into **Karnataka Public Procurement (KPP) Portal** website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **27.02.2026.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Electy.,),
Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL,
A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560009

ODISHA STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD (OSAMB)
(A Statutory Organization of Govt. of Odisha)
Plot No.1800 (P), Baramunda, Post-Khandagiri, Near Indian Oil Petrol Pump, Bhubaneswar.
Ph.No.0674-2952410, Email: osamboard99@yahoo.com
Corrigendum
No.762 Date.24.02.2026
Bid Identification of e-Procurement Notice No -1 of 2025-2026, Tender Call Notice No. - 622 Dated:11.02.2026
"Construction of World Largest Grain Storage in Co-operative Sector"
QUALIFICATION CRITERIA, 3.2 (b)
XVI. Experience: Contractor having Successfully completed **500 MT Godown or above** in a Single Agreement during the last 3 Financial Years.
Read as
Experience : Contractor having Successfully completed **1000 MT Godown or above** in a Single Agreement during the last 3 Financial Years for the Work of **TENDER CALL NOTICE No. - 622 Dated : 11.02.2026, Sl. No. 1, 2, 3 & 4**
All other Terms & Conditions will remain unchanged.
Sd/- General Manager, OSAM Board, Bhubaneswar
39001/15/2526 OIPR-39001/39024/1/25-26/0004

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂଚାରଣ ନିଗମ ଲିଃ
(ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଏକ ଉପକ୍ରମ)
ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: OPTCL Tech Tower, Janpath, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-Tender No.	Tender Description:	Estimated Cost
CPC-57/2025-26	Design, engineering, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of work towards Construction of 400kV D/C (Quad) line from proposed NTTPP, NLC, Talabira to 400/220/132/33kV Grid S/S, Lapanga (Line Length=6.8 KM Approx.) in Sambalpur District of Odisha on EPC Contract Basis in e-tendering mode only. **Last Date & Time of Submission of Bid: 25.03.2026 upto 12:45 PM.**	**Rs. 1,00,07,25,521.00/-**

Complete set of bidding documents are available at **www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL** and **www.optcl.co.in**.
/optcl.odisha /optcl_odisha HIPR-77/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

Take notice that, **MRS. MRINALINI D' SOUZA** Wife Of Late Mr. Mervyn F. D' Souza, AND **Mr. P. SANJAY MUDARTHA,** son of Late Mr. Mervyn F. D' Souza AND **Mrs. SUNAYANA MUDARTHA,** daughter of Late Mr. Mervyn F. D' Souza ALL three presently residing at No. 5/12, Brunton Road Cross, Bangalore - 560 025 AND **Mr. MERRILL COELHO,** son of Late Mr. Henry Coelho and Late Mrs. Rita Anne Coelho, presently residing at "Mon Repos", No. 17, St. Leo Road, Bandra West, Mumbai 400050 AND Ms. MELLENER ANNE COELHO, daughter of Late Mr. Henry Coelho and Late Mrs. Rita Anne Coelho, presently residing at #714A, 8th Main, 'B' Block, Vinayakanagar, Bangalore 560 017 as the owners AND **M/S NESTLED HAVEN DEVELOPERS LLP,** a Limited Liability Partnership Firm, having its registered office at old No.34 (New No. 84), Ulsoor Main Road, Sivan Chetty Gardens, Bangalore, Karnataka 560042 as the developer absolutely seized and possessed of and otherwise well and sufficiently entitled to the property described below have agreed to sale to my client.

Any person having or claiming any interest against under mentioned property or part thereof by way of sale, gift, lease, lien, trust, possession, inheritance, easement, attachment or otherwise whatsoever in nature, are hereby requested to make the same known in writing to the undersigned with 7 (Seven) days from the date of the publication of this notice, as otherwise negotiation shall be concluded and the sale/transfer transactions will be completed without reference to such claim and the same if any will be considered as waived.

THE SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY ABOVE REFERRED TO

All the piece of parcel of Residential Flat bearing Apartment No. 23A, GBA ePID No. 2413135261 on the 23rd Floor with 3 standard Car Parks admeasuring about 3895 square feet usable area and 5103 square feet super built-up area of the Building "27 Summit" constructed on the Municipal No. 17 and PID No. 77-35-17 in total admeasuring 1,13,740 square feet, situated at 1st Main Road, Sri Ramamandira Road, Sampangiramnagar, Bengaluru- 560 027.

VIPUL S. KAPADIA - ADVOCATE
1st Floor, Signature, Valsad-Dharampur Road, Valsad, Tal. & Dist. Valsad-396001, Gujarat, India.
DATE : 26/02/2026

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, (ಪೂರ್ವ& ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ), ಸಿವಿಲ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಸಯ್ಯಾಜಿರಾವ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಇ-ಮೇಲ್- eewmccmys@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಇಂ(ಪೂ&ಪ)/ಸಾ.ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ–26/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.02.2026
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಒಟ್ಟು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು	ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ
ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು						
1	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಅ(ಪೂ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್–72/ 2025–26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:16.02.2026	05	100.50	20.02.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	06.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.25 ವರೆಗೆ	07.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಕ್ಕೆ
2	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಅ(ಪೂ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್–75/ 2025–26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:23.02.2026	01	99.00	23.02.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	10.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.25 ವರೆಗೆ	11.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಕ್ಕೆ
3	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಅ(ಪ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್–80/ 2025–26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:23.02.2026	02	158.00	23.02.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	09.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.25 ವರೆಗೆ	10.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಕ್ಕೆ
4	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಅ(ಪೂ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್–81/ 2025–26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:23.02.2026	01	65.00	24.02.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	02.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.25 ವರೆಗೆ	03.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಕ್ಕೆ

ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪೂರ್ವ ಮತ್ತು ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.
ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ: ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೂಚನೆ/ಬದಲಾವಣೆ / ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.
ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪೂ) ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪ) ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
ಪಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು1747/ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಸಿ/2025–26

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in
No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-89/3763/2025-26 Date: 25.02.2026
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Civil Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the work mentioned below:

Name of the Work : Re-construction & Strengthening of 24m, 18m, 12m, 9m wide Roads, construction of RCC Side Drain, RCC Cross Drainage, HDPE Water Supply Line at Jigani Industrial Area 1st & 2nd Phase, Bengaluru South District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **16.03.2026 upto 04:00 pm.**
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/5862/Zen/2025-26

A jab well done

Following up of adverse events after immunisation is a must

India's move to introduce a nationwide Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme, for girls aged 14, strikes a strident note for science at a time when an anti-vaccination sentiment has perilously picked up favourable winds, globally. The impact of shunning vaccines is apparent in the United States where, currently, a measles epidemic is making its way across 26 States. The HPV vaccination will be conducted exclusively at designated government health facilities, and in the presence of trained medical officers, supported by skilled health-care teams equipped for post-vaccination observation and management of adverse events following immunisation (AEFI). A single-dose vaccine, a regimen recommended by the World Health Organization, will be deployed. Adequate evidence exists to show that almost all cases of cervical cancer are caused by persistent infection with high-risk types of HPV, particularly 16 and 18. These two types together account for more than 80% of cervical cancer cases in India. Evidence also points to the fact that cervical cancer is largely preventable through HPV vaccination and regular screening, and can be cured if detected early and treated promptly. Globally, over 90 countries are implementing single-dose HPV vaccination schedules. Several countries have demonstrated substantial reductions in HPV infection, precancerous lesions, and cervical cancer incidence following widespread vaccination. Cervical cancer remains a rare cancer where a vaccine has proven to be of great preventive value.

The sheer burden of cervical cancer in India is what makes this decision a critical life-saving intervention: The South-East Asia Region (SEARO) accounts for the second-highest cervical cancer incident (new cases) and death rate among WHO regions, with India contributing over 65% of the burden. The second most common cancer in women in India, it was estimated that the country had 127,526 new cases and 79,906 deaths from cervical cancer in 2022. National screening coverage remains alarmingly low, with only 1.9% of women aged 30-49 being tested. However, India's dark past with an HPV vaccine trial cannot be forgotten. Seven girls who were part of a trial in 2009-10 in Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat died. An ICMR investigation averred that the reasons "were most probably unrelated to the vaccine. However, the cause of death in all the cases cannot be established with certainty". It also flagged, as a key concern, the need to identify and investigate all AEFI. As the government embarks on this exercise that could lead to many health gains, it will do well to ensure a working cold chain to store the vaccines, complete transparency, and meticulous reporting of AEFI across the country.

Demagogue salesman

Donald Trump will need more than words to alter the bitter ground realities

In his 2026 State of the Union address, U.S. President Donald Trump chose to double down on the politics of his conservative support base by touting his second administration's achievements with regard to divisive, if not polarising issues relating to immigration, the cost of living, and foreign policy concerns including tariffs and the prospect of war in the context of Iran. The speech itself comes at a fraught moment for the Trump White House, days after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down its use of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act to slam a broad swathe of trading partners, including India, with punitive tariffs. An apparently undaunted Mr. Trump repeated his earlier remarks on social media hinting at disdain for the ruling, when he described it during the speech as "unfortunate" and argued, against evidence to the contrary regarding the burgeoning public debt, that the tariff revenues received by his government were "saving" the U.S. Similarly, he neatly avoided alluding to the two Americans killed in ICE raids in Minneapolis or the agency's other heavy-handed actions targeting "criminal aliens" and "drug lords". With regard to Iran, even though Washington has rapidly built up its force posture across West Asia following Teheran's crackdown on protesters, Mr. Trump appeared to be holding out hope for a *modus vivendi* when he said, "My preference is to solve this problem through diplomacy. But... I will never allow the world's number one sponsor of terror, which they are by far, to have a nuclear weapon."

If Mr. Trump's remarks in Congress sounded self-congratulatory, that might have been because they echoed a well-rehearsed campaign speech ahead of the critical mid-term elections. While it is true that inflation has gradually come down during Mr. Trump's second term, his description of the price trend as "plummeting" might have appeared to some to be an exaggeration, especially given that it was under his predecessor Joe Biden that prices came off their nearly 9% peak in mid-2022 to 2.9% by the time Mr. Trump entered the White House, leading to the current rate of nearly 2.4%. More concerningly for the White House and Republican lawmakers, opinion polls suggest that most Americans are disenchanted with the tariff policy and its cost-escalating pressure on the economy, with the design and implementation of the current immigration policy, and with the perceived involvement of Mr. Trump in the Epstein scandal. While an upbeat address to a joint session of Congress might galvanise the faithful, it will take more than words to alter the bitter ground realities faced by the common people and they tend to express their frustrations in this context at the ballot box.

Balancing faith, dignity and constitutional rights

Suhrith Parthasarathy

is an advocate practising in the Madras High Court

When a five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court of India delivered its verdict, in September 2018, in *Indian Young Lawyers Association vs State of Kerala*, opening the doors of Kerala's Sabarimala temple to women of all ages, it provoked a range of reactions. There were protests across the country, especially in Kerala, where many believed that the Court had overlooked, and even disrespected, religious creed. Others saw the verdict as transformative, as outlining a vision that enlivened the Constitution. Now, close to a decade later, the Court will hear final arguments on review petitions that seek to overturn the earlier verdict and the law it laid down.

Opinion, dissent and turning point

The original ruling was delivered through a 4:1 majority. There was an opinion from then Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dipak Misra, to which Justice A.M. Khanwilkar joined. There were separate, concurring opinions from Justices Rohinton Nariman and D.Y. Chandrachud and a notable dissent from Justice Indu Malhotra. But despite the cleavage in the rationales adopted, the majority's findings were clear.

First, the Court ruled that the devotees of Lord Ayyappa did not constitute a separate religious denomination; second, that the bar enforced on women between the ages of 10 and 50 from entering the temple violated the rights of women to freedom of religion; and third, that Rule 3(b) of the Kerala Hindu Places of Public Worship (Authorisation of Entry) Rules, 1965, on which the ban was grounded, violated not only the Constitution but also Section 3 of its parent law, which promised free access to temples for all classes of Hindus.

In her dissenting opinion, Justice Malhotra found, among other things, that fundamental rights in a secular polity needed harmonising, that a generic doctrine of equality cannot override the collective rights of individuals to practise their faith in line with their customs and ideals. She also found that, as a matter of custom, women of a certain age had been excluded from the temple's precincts, and this constituted a non-derogable "essential religious practice".

The latter finding represented the central axis on which the case turned. The Constitution recognises both the freedom of religion as an individual right and the rights of religious denominations to manage their own affairs in matters of religion. Both rights are subject to public order, morality and health, and in the case of an individual's right to freedom of religion also to other fundamental rights.

Balancing communitarian interests with individual conscience has long plagued our jurisprudence. Over the years, when it has been called to resolve tensions of this kind, the Court has used a test that has allowed it to virtually sit in theological judgment over religious practice. That is, it examines and arrives at a factual conclusion on whether a practice in question is essential to the religion or not. This has meant that the Court has effectively determined not only those areas where it might be constitutionally justifiable for the state to intervene but has also determined what kinds of practices are deserving of constitutional protection in the first place.

The Sabarimala review's final arguments will also centre on the broader architecture of India's religious freedom jurisprudence

For example, in *Sastri Yagnapurushadji vs Muldas Bhudardas Vaishya* (1966), CJI P.B. Gajendragadkar deduced what was essential to the followers of the Swaminarayan sect through selective references to Hindu texts without so much as asking what the conscience of the followers, in fact, dictated. In one passage, he even concluded that the "genesis of the suit...is founded on superstition, ignorance and complete misunderstanding of the true teachings of Hindu religion".

A court sitting as a moral arbiter on religion ought to be anathema to secularism. Therefore, that we need a theory that departs from the essential religious practices test ought to be beyond doubt. As Justice Chandrachud wrote, in his judgment in Indian Young Lawyers Association, "The rationale for allowing a religious community to define what constitutes an essential aspect of its religion is to protect the autonomy of religions and religious denominations. Protecting that autonomy enhances the liberal values of the Constitution... By entering upon doctrinal issues of what does or does not constitute an essential part of religion, the Court has, as a necessary consequence, been required to adopt a religious mantle."

The test also suffers from other practical limitations. It calls upon a constitutional court to arrive at fully fleshed out factual findings without allowing parties to lead oral evidence or subject witnesses to cross examination. What is more, the doctrine also does not offer a clear solution for what is really an obvious problem: what must a court do when a practice it finds essential to religion also undermines, or is inimical to, the dignity of individuals?

On an 'anti-exclusion test'

It is for this reason that Justice Chandrachud proposed an "anti-exclusion test". In his formulation, this norm would allow for due deference to be shown to each religious group to determine for themselves what doctrines and tenets to follow. At the same time, should any such practice exclude an individual in a manner which impairs their dignity or hampers their access to basic goods, "the freedom of religion must give way to the over-arching values of a liberal constitution".

At a doctrinal level, the test is not beyond complications. At first glance, it might well seem to replicate some of the difficulties that have long beleaguered the essential religious practices doctrine. To determine whether a particular form of exclusion impairs dignity or access to basic goods, a court must inevitably engage with the meaning and purpose of the practice in question. Such an inquiry cannot be carried out in the vacuum. It may have an impact on the normative content of faith itself. But where it differs is that the investigation remains grounded in constitutional terms rather than theological ones.

A crucial distinction

In other words, the anti-exclusion test does not ask whether a practice is essential to religion; it asks whether the consequences of a practice are compatible with the Constitution's guarantees of equal treatment and protection. This distinction is crucial. Under the essential religious practices test, constitutional protection turns on whether a court sees a practice as critical to the exercise of faith.

By contrast, under the anti-exclusion test a court accepts, as a starting point, the autonomy of religious groups to define their own tenets. It only intervenes to ensure that the exercise of that liberty does not lead to a systematic exclusion of individuals from places or benefits that are integral to their ability to lead a life of dignity.

When the nine-judge Bench begins its hearings, it will have the opportunity to reflect on the broader architecture of India's religious freedom clauses. The principles it lays down will have a bearing not only on the Sabarimala dispute but also on a host of other controversies as well – including the rights of Dawoodi Bohra community members against excommunication and of Parsi women to continue to practise the Zoroastrian faith upon marrying outside the religion.

As the framers of the Constitution recognised, religion and social life are inextricably connected in India. This makes it impossible for courts to remain entirely indifferent to the real-life consequences of religious practice. The anti-exclusion test acknowledges that faith must remain autonomous in its own domain, but its outward exercise must comport with the Constitution's commitment to equal moral membership.

If the individual is to remain the basic unit of constitutional concern, communitarian claims cannot override a person's right to access spaces and institutions that shape civic life. In placing dignity at the heart of the inquiry, the anti-exclusion test offers a framework that remains truest to the Constitution's transformative promise, by protecting belief without licensing discrimination in its name.

Unpackaging the myth of safe bottled water in India

Rohan Singh

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In contemporary India, bottled water has quietly shifted from an occasional convenience to an everyday necessity. Across railway stations, offices and restaurants, packaged drinking water is now routine, driven by declining trust in municipal supplies and the belief that water sealed in plastic is safer.

In recent years, however, scientific studies, including research conducted in India, have begun to challenge this perception. While bottled water is regulated and generally found to be microbiologically safe, concerns are no longer limited to bacteria and pathogens. Attention is now turning to less visible risks, including microplastic particles and trace chemicals that leach from plastic containers, and their potential long-term implications for human health and environmental sustainability.

Microplastics as top contaminant

Microplastics are plastic particles smaller than five millimetres. Bottled drinking water has become a direct and significant route of human exposure to these particles.

A study based in Nagpur, Maharashtra, detected microplastics in all sampled brands of bottled water, with concentrations ranging from 72 particles to 212 particles per litre. Locally bottled water showed higher contamination than national brands, pointing to possible gaps in bottling practices and quality control measures.

This pattern is not isolated. Studies examining bottled water from Mumbai and coastal Andhra Pradesh detected microplastics in every sample analysed, indicating that contamination occurs across regions and supply chains. Taken together, these findings indicate that microplastics in bottled drinking water is an emerging contaminant in India, not just confined to western markets.

The health effects of ingesting microplastics are still under investigation. However, these particles are known to carry toxic additives and pollutants. Emerging research suggests that smaller particles may cross biological barriers, raising concerns about the safety of bottled drinking water. The issue is further compounded by nanoplastics, which are even smaller particles, fall below current detection thresholds, and remain outside existing safety regulations.

Policy and regulatory authorities need to acknowledge the public health and environmental risks

This reveals a regulatory gap: while exposure through everyday sources such as bottled water is increasingly documented, safety standards remain focused on visible or short-term contaminants, leaving potential long-term risks largely unmonitored.

Bottled water is also vulnerable to chemical leaching from plastic containers. Additives such as antimony, phthalates and other plasticisers can migrate into water, particularly when bottles are exposed to heat or stored for prolonged periods – conditions common in India's supply chains.

Leaching may occur during transportation, warehouse or retail display, especially when bottles are stored in direct sunlight. Studies show elevated temperatures and ultraviolet exposure accelerate this leaching process.

While detected chemicals remain within regulatory limits, existing standards typically assess isolated substances over short durations. They fail to adequately account for cumulative, long-term exposure to multiple additives, in combination with microplastics, thereby creating a critical disconnect between daily consumption patterns and regulations oversight.

Regulations lag behind

In India, packaged drinking water is regulated primarily by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), which oversees licensing, testing and compliance under updated norms following the removal of mandatory BIS certification. While this framework has improved baseline quality, its scope remains limited. These standards do not include testing for, or limit on, microplastics, nor do they adequately address long-term exposure to plastic-derived chemicals under real-world storage conditions.

State-level surveys, including those conducted in Karnataka, have frequently identified bottled water samples that are unsafe or substandard, highlighting gaps in enforcement rather than the absence of regulations. This challenge is compounded by a fragmented industry of thousands of small bottling units, many operating with minimal oversight and drawing on already stressed groundwater reserves.

The public health risks of bottled water usage cannot be separated from its environmental footprint. India is already grappling with a plastic waste crisis, generating millions of tonnes annually, of which single-use water bottles form a large share. As plastic degrades in landfills, rivers and oceans, it fragments into microplastics that re-enter ecosystems and water sources, which ultimately contaminate water sources, including bottled water supplies themselves. This convergence of environmental degradation and human health risk underscores the inadequacy of treating bottled water merely as a consumer convenience.

Towards safer alternatives

Bottled water remains indispensable during emergencies, disaster relief and areas lacking reliable potable water infrastructure. The concern, therefore, is not prohibition but over-dependence and misplaced trust.

In the interim, exposure risks can be reduced through point-of-use filtration capable of removing particulate matter, avoiding prolonged storage of bottled water under heat, and expanding access to refill stations and public water dispensing systems.

At a systematic level, strengthening the municipal water supply system, ensuring transparent public disclosure of water quality, expanding access to affordable household filtration, and improving consumer awareness can help recalibrate public trust toward monitored and accountable public water systems.

Equally important is updating regulatory frameworks to include routine testing for microplastics and plastic-derived contaminants currently absent in FSSAI and BIS standards.

When harm is clearly documented and scientific evidence continues to accumulate, the issue is no longer whether the problem exists, but whether policy institutions and regulatory instruments are willing to acknowledge it, measure it honestly, and assign responsibility.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Kerala' to 'Keralam'

It could soon be official (Inside pages, "Union Cabinet nod for 'Kerala' to become 'Keralam'", February 25). Yet, I still think that 'Kerala' sounds infinitely more powerful and regal than 'Keralam'. It is much like Emperor Ashoka is more royal sounding than the very docile docked tail 'Ashok'. The tag line for the delectable Onam Sadhya could now become 'Keral-yumm'. The addition of the m/'yemm' will, hopefully, change the confusion in North India over the vegetable (*Karela*) and the State. Is this because of the superficial resemblance in shape?

Sudhir Philipose,
Bengaluru

In reality these are diversionary tactics which sidestep the more pressing problems such as unemployment and governmental inefficiency.

'Kerala' becoming 'Keralam' is not an index of development nor is it a panacea for all the ills that plague God's Own Country, where even gold that belongs to gods is not safe.

C.V. Aravind,
Bengaluru

Corrections & Clarifications

Saket Gokhale, National Spokesperson of the All India Trinamool Congress (TMC) and a Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament, was incorrectly referred to as a "Congress MP" in a report, "Parliamentary panel passes resolution praising AI summit; mention of protest stirs row" (Inside pages, February 25).

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Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Decolonising and de-Nobelising science

Vasudevan Mukunth

Every February 28, India celebrates National Science Day to commemorate C.V. Raman's announcement of the Raman effect in 1928, a discovery that won him the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930. Such national rituals are said to be just acts of remembrance, but they are not; they also legitimise what the state says counts as science.

Three keywords

A new book about keywords offers a useful way to read this ritual itself as a word with a political life. *Decolonial Keywords*, edited by anthropologists Renny Thomas and Sasanka Perera, argues that some everyday terms can be treated as archives of history and power and that their definitions are often a political rather than a linguistic achievement. 'National Science Day' and 'Nobel Prize' can also be treated as such keywords: ones that organise India's public imagination of science. There is a reason we mark a date that can be narrated with a "world-class discovery" rather than a date on which, say, a public hospital improved maternal outcomes.

If decolonising science is to mean anything in India, it must include the need to de-Nobelise how the state understands and valorises science. Specifically, it must stop treating external prestige as the main proof of scientific worth and expand the cast of legitimate scientific actors and sites. Three keywords from the book – 'jugaad', 'poromboke', and 'laboratory' – help show how this recognition works through institutional infrastructures.

Researcher and author Pankaj Sekhsaria's essay on 'jugaad' begins by using the word's instability – it can plausibly be read as a virtue, a compromise, or corruption – to explain how it creates space for powerful actors to amplify the meanings that suit them and discard those that don't. He also shows how the word has been absorbed into managerial talk as a laudable synonym for frugal innovation while other resonances remain harder to hear or take seriously.

This is how innovation tends to behave in the public theatre of National Science Day. It becomes a stage-managed synonym for ingenuity that the stage packages for elite consumption, preferably in English, preferably legible to global management culture, and preferably compatible with award narratives. Prof. Sekhsaria ends with a question that cuts through this template: what words do farmers, fishers, and craftspeople use to describe their own inventiveness? Answering this question forces our attention away from the elite markers of prestige and towards the vocabularies that people use to produce and name practical knowledge.

Professor Banu Subramaniam's chapter on 'poromboke' makes a parallel argument about classification, anchored in Tamil political ecology. The state often glosses over 'poromboke' as wasteland, or land that does not generate revenue for the state. Her point is that the revenue category has always been a social category in disguise because the state's accounting decides which landscapes count as productive and so which people's uses count as legitimate. Historically, the term also referred to land set aside for public use, whereas in contemporary practice it covers a range of commons that remain essential for marginalised communities precisely because they are not private property.

She also remarks on how the word has become a pejorative in common Tamil speech, meaning 'good for nothing'. When the state declares a landscape to be disposable, the people who depend on it become easier to declare disposable as well. In the same way, some kinds of inquiry are said to be 'national science' while others of less prestige are rendered 'routine work' or 'local practice'. This is why what we celebrate on National Science Day is not value-neutral but a way to sort the labour of science.

Dr. Thomas focuses on 'laboratory' and his analysis begins by distinguishing between elite 'mega labs' and the 'minor labs' ubiquitous in towns and villages, especially diagnostic centres ('pathology labs'). Raman's own story is inseparable from laboratory infrastructure – he announced the Raman effect while working at the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science in Calcutta – but Dr. Thomas's point is that this recognisability is something we manufacture. When schools teach the laboratory as the place where great people work in isolation, the everyday diagnostic lab, where most Indians actually encounter scientific authority, becomes conceptually minor even though it is central to society.

And once we treat a 'lab' as a social institution, its politics become part of its definition. Dr. Thomas has found in his own work that lab-mates do science but also share rituals, gossip, and celebrate occasions together, and is often a space where people reproduce hierarchies of caste and gender. But in other settings, it is also a place where the authority of 'science' is routinely performed before the public.

What counts as science

The keywords thus clarify what a de-Nobelised imagination of science, paralleling the decolonisation of science, would require. It would force India to ask how Indians produce the thing called 'recognition' – through discoveries and papers as much as by institutions that sort labour into celebrated and hidden.

National Science Day, then, should not simply reproduce a Nobel-shaped story about genius and external validation. It should become an annual day of discussion of what counts as science, including the work of technicians, field staff, nurses, lab attendants, data collectors, and others whose labour is essential to make new knowledge but is rarely commemorated.

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National Science Day should not just reproduce a story about genius and external validation. It should become an annual day of discussion of what counts as science, including the work of field staff, nurses, and others

The BJP's West Bengal gamble

Its strategy hinges on polarisation and support from former Left adherents

STATE OF PLAY

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For a party that won just three Assembly seats in 2016 to being the principle Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly in 2021 with 77 seats, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has come a long way. Yet, according to senior party strategists, it still needs to identify its electoral base – not just the hard-core Sangh Parivar cohort, but also the anti-Trinamool Congress and Left Front voters, who cast their votes strategically.

As the BJP settles down to chart out a strategy for the upcoming Assembly elections, two approaches are gaining traction. The first seeks to appeal to Sangh Parivar-aligned voters and the second seeks to attract an anti-Trinamool and largely Left Front voter base.

The first approach focuses on polarisation, framed around the narrative of infiltration from Bangladesh. This promotes the idea that a porous border facilitates such movement and that the State government is not willing to cooperate with the Centre in controlling it as it wants support from minority voters.

This narrative is particularly popular in districts along the porous India-Bangladesh border, including parts of North Bengal and stretches of South and Central Bengal. And the recently concluded general elections in Bangladesh have helped bolster it. While the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) won the elections with 212 seats and promised to protect minority Hindus, the Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) party-led coalition won 77 out of the 300 seats in Parliament, with the JeI itself winning a record

68 seats, making it the principle opposition party. Many of the JeI's seats are concentrated in the border regions, including the Khulna division. For the BJP, this fact adds weight to its narrative of infiltration and changing demographics in these areas, which will help polarise the electorate in its favour. The BJP performed well in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls in these regions, but did not perform as well in the 2021 Assembly elections.

The second point gaining traction is the party's realisation of which voters drove its surge in the 2019 Lok Sabha and 2021 Assembly polls. They were, surprisingly, largely former Left Front supporters.

In the 2016 Assembly elections, the Left-Congress alliance received a vote share of 38.1% and a seat share of 77. The BJP secured only 10.2% of the vote share and three seats. In the 2021 Assembly elections, the BJP's vote share increased significantly to 38.1%. It won 77 seats – the same number that the Left-Congress alliance had won in 2016. This showed that most of the anti-Trinamool Congress voters had shifted to the BJP.

What is more significant is that in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the BJP got 18 seats and 40.2% of the vote share, which, if extrapolated to Assembly segments, translated into dominance in 121 of them. Yet, the 2021 Assembly elections showed that some of the anti-Trinamool votes that had gone to the BJP in the Lok Sabha polls returned to the Left-Congress alliance. Recovering the vote share to the 2019 levels is part of the BJP's strategy now.

For example, in around 49 seats in the Greater Kolkata area where the BJP routinely performs poorly, the Left retained second place in several seats and held on to portions of its vote. BJP backroom strategists are now reaching out to local Left supporters, trying to convince them that, in the absence of a Left-Congress alliance, the only way to defeat the Trinamool is to consolidate their votes behind the BJP more than they did in the past.

The party is using the anti-incumbency narrative against the three-term Trinamool Congress government, to convince floating voters, not aligned at any level with the BJP, that the national party is their best bet to vote out the Trinamool government. This is what West Bengal BJP president Samik Bhattacharya said when he took over the post in July last year: "Leave all ideologies aside and come together to remove Trinamool from power. Then you can raise your flag and find your own path again. There will be a space for Opposition."

An election campaign and strategy involves many moving parts – a patchwork of narratives, demographics, and arithmetic. Winning over voters from an ideological rival to strategically block a third, more dominant force is not a new tactic, but it comes with challenges. It requires psychological operations and a covert communications strategy, which often fail. Yet, if executed well, this complex strategy can make even seemingly impossible outcomes possible. And that is precisely what the BJP hopes to achieve sucessfully in West Bengal.

Modi's Israel visit: Balancing ties amid West Bank tensions

The Prime Minister's visit to Israel comes after India aligned with more than 100 countries at the UN in criticising Israel's moves in the West Bank

DATA POINT

Devyanshi Bihani

Prime Minister Narendra Modi landed in Israel on Wednesday to discuss with his counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu a range of issues aimed at boosting bilateral ties, and key developments in the region. His earlier visit to Israel in 2017 was the first by any Indian Prime Minister.

The visit comes shortly after India aligned with more than 100 countries at the United Nations in criticising Israel's moves in the West Bank. It signed a joint statement after initially staying away from a collective condemnation of settlement expansion.

India and Israel established full diplomatic relations in 1992. The relationship has deepened significantly over the past decade across defence, trade, technology and labour mobility. **Chart 1** shows trends in India-Israel bilateral trade from 2015-16 to 2024-25.

From about $200 million in 1992, bilateral trade has expanded significantly, peaking at over $10.7 billion in 2022-23. It declined to $6.5 billion in 2023-24 and further to $3.6 billion in 2024-25 due to war-related disruptions and trouble in the trade route. Since 2014-15, India has maintained a trade surplus with Israel. The surplus widened sharply to $6.1 billion in 2022-23, before narrowing to $2.5 billion in 2023-24 and further down to $663 million in 2024-25.

Charts 2A and 2B show India's top five exports to Israel and imports from it. Each commodity's share in total imports and exports based on cumulative values from 2019-2025 is mentioned.

In the 2019-2025 period, refined products made from crude oil such as petrol and diesel accounted for nearly 44% of India's exports to Israel, followed by diamonds at about 22%. Diamonds dominated imports too, making up about a third of India's total imports from Israel. Diamonds are imported as rough stones from Israel, cut and polished in India, and then exported back as finished products. Mineral or chemical fertilizers, electronic integrated circuits and radar apparatus are also significant imports from Israel.

Defense cooperation remains the cornerstone of the India-Israel strategic partnership. **Chart 3** shows India's share in Israel's arms exports from 1997-2024.

Over the past decade, India has emerged as one of the largest importers of Israel's arms and ammunitions. According to data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, India accounted for over 38% of Israel's arms exports between 2014 and 2024.

Israel's cumulative foreign direct investment into India crossed $347 million between 2000 and September 2025, according to government data. Israel has made over 300 investments in India, mainly in the technology domain.

Indian companies too have invested in Israeli technology firms, particularly in the cybersecurity, agriculture, water management, and electric mobility sectors. The cumulative overseas direct investment from India between April 2000 and April 2025 was $443 million. The partnership also aligns with the 'Make in India' push, with Israeli firms increasingly collaborating with Indian companies to manufacture equipment locally.

Another key dimension of the relationship is migration and mobility. As of 2024, around 32,715 Indians travelled to Israel, up from about 27,196 in 2023. A significant portion of this movement is linked to employment. Official data show that there were around 32,000 Indian workers in Israel as of October 2024, many of whom were recruited after the outbreak of the Gaza conflict to replace Palestinian labour in the construction sector. There are also about 900 Indian students studying in Israel.

Walking a tightrope

The data were sourced from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, the Ministry of External Affairs, and the Lok Sabha

CHART 2A: India's top five exports to Israel and each commodity's share in total exports

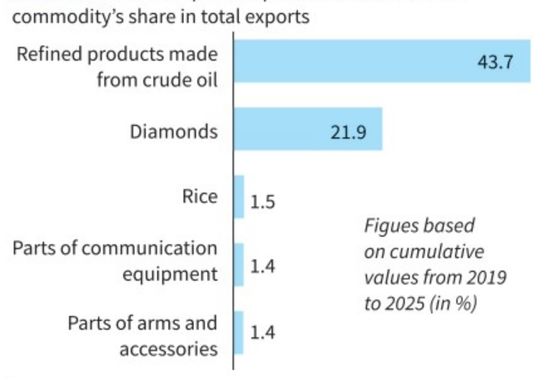


CHART 1: Trends in India-Israel bilateral trade from 2015-16 to 2024-25 (in $ billion)

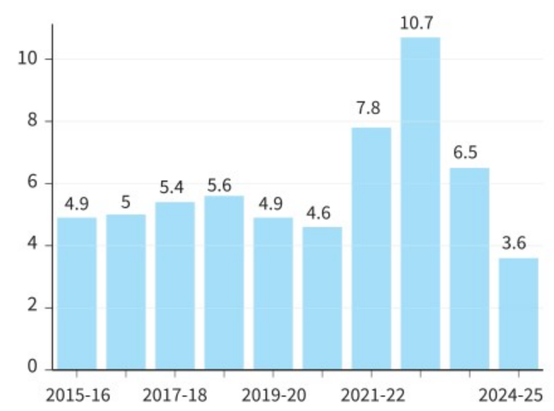


CHART 2B: India's top five imports from Israel and each commodity's share in total imports

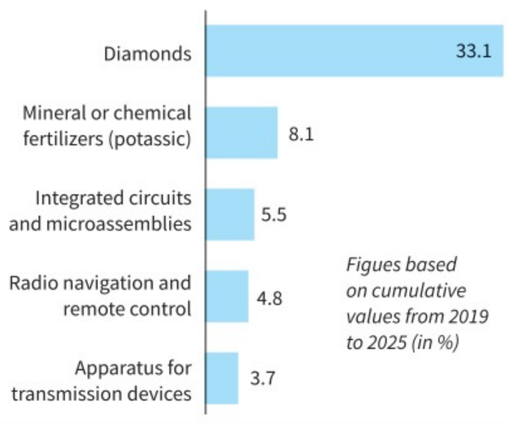
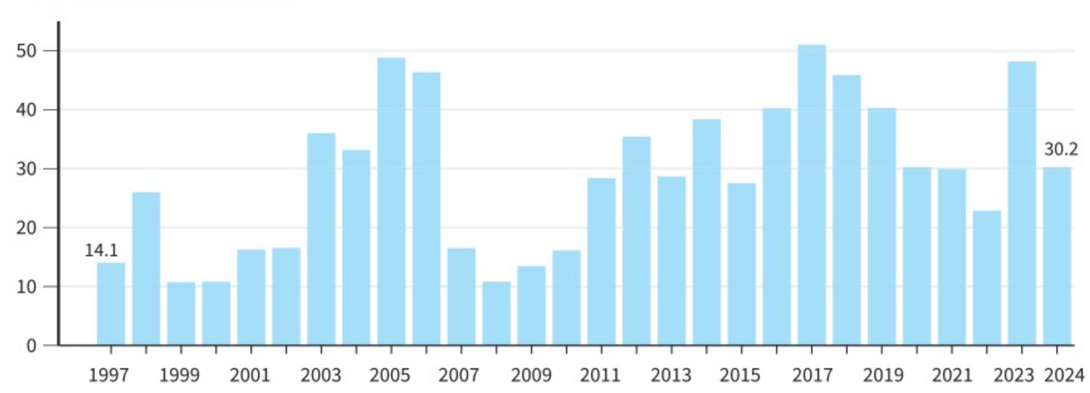


CHART 3: India's share in Israel's arms exports from 1997 to 2024 in %. India has emerged as one of the largest importers of Israel's arms and ammunitions



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 26, 1976

Noise pollution in Madras: study findings

Madras, Feb. 25: A pilot study on "noise pollution", conducted in four selected areas in Madras during peak hours, shows that the intensity of sound level is "highly irritating and uncomfortable" opposite the Anna Salai Post Office. However, the intensity of sound (73 decibels) registered in the areas falls well within the damaging noise level (85 decibels) and is lower than what is obtaining in other major cities like Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi. Frequent horning and engine vibrations, especially of motorcycles and scooters, are the loud irritants outside the Anna Salai Post Office. The area near the Central Station and the General Hospital comes second with 71 decibels, the Kothwal Market area third with 70 decibels and the Parry's Corner fourth with no decibels. The study is part of a noise pollution survey in different parts of Madras, Madurai, Coimbatore, Trivandrum, Cochin, Mysore and Bangalore, sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology of the Union Government. A team of ENT specialists and audiologists of the Institute of Oto-Rhino Laryngology at the Madras Medical College and engineers of the IIT, which conducted the study with the help of sophisticated sound level meters and analysers and by interviewing the people, has expressed the view that unless the increasing noise pollution was checked, the continuous exposure of the residents in the area for a prolonged period may end in permanent irreversible hearing loss.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 26, 1926

Malaria in Bombay

Bombay, Jan. 25: A sub-committee appointed by the Corporation have recommended drastic measures for combating malaria. They suggest the doing away with open roadside drains which should be replaced by underground stormwater pipes, the covering up of the stormwater pipes and tanks of mills rendering wells mosquito proof and filling in the low-lying lands in the city. The railway companies ought to be called upon to fill in the low-lying lands on either side of the railway lines within the railway limit and neither the Government nor anyone else be exempted from statutory obligation and liabilities, enforceable under the Municipal Law in matters affecting the health of the city.

From Page One

India 'stands firmly' with Israel, Modi tells Knesset

Mr. Modi said India had supported Israel's attempts to build friendly ties with the countries in West Asia and North Africa and said Israeli moves to build relationships with Arab countries under the Abraham Accords, showed "courage and vision".

"Since then, the situation has changed significantly. The path is even more challenging. Yet it is important to sustain that hope," he said.

Mr. Modi referred to India's ties with the Jewish community as rooted in ancient trade and movement of people, and said there is "great admiration of Israel's resolve, courage and achievements" in India. He also talked about the absence of discrimination against the Jewish community in India and specifically referred to the historic Jewish communities in Kerala, West Bengal, and Maharashtra.

The Prime Minister said India is committed to expanding trade with Israel and informed that both sides are working on it through "cross-border financial linkages" using "Digital Public Infrastructure". He said the two sides are also working on an ambitious Free Trade Agreement and said this will "unlock the vast untapped potential in our trade relationship".

Earlier, welcoming the Prime Minister to the Knesset, Mr. Netanyahu said Mr. Modi "did not flinch" and that under his leadership India provided support to Israel in the challenging times over the recent past. "You stood for Israel. You stood for the Jews. Thank you," said Mr. Netanyahu.

Cases stall in Bengal as judges busy with SIR

These judicial officers are provided log-in credentials to study the claims and objects.

A District Judge asked how judges could participate in SIR work unless they are made electoral returning officers. The judge said that even trials for cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act have been kept in abeyance due to SIR work.

Several important cases where the trial process has been or likely to be affected include the South Calcutta Law College case (June 2025), the sexual assault of a medical student at Durgapur Medical College (October 2025) and the sexual assault and murder of a 13-year-old at Rampurhat at Birbhum (September 2025).

Retired IAS officer and former Rajya Sabha MP Jawhar Sircar said that involving judicial officers in the SIR was not a "well thought-out process". "It is a knee-jerk reaction though there is nothing *mala fide* about the order," Mr. Sircar said.

The former bureaucrat who has served as the Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal said that under the Representation of the People Act, 1950, the District Magistrates or the District Electoral Officer are the ones with whom real authority lies as far as election processes were concerned.

When administrative jobs are thrust upon judicial officers they "may be out of depth" because judges are used to function in a particular format, and issue judicial and quasi judicial orders over pending disputes, he said.

Mr. Sircar argued that had the judicial officers been engaged in the process about a month ago the solution may have worked, but now only two or three days were left to meet the February 28 deadline.

West Bengal is witnessing an unprecedented situation where the final electoral roll may be released in phases.

The Supreme Court had on February 20 highlighted a trust deficit between the West Bengal government and the Election Commission of India and directed that judicial officials of the State would look into claims and objections.

SC takes *suo motu* case over NCERT corruption remark

The court decides to register the *suo motu* case despite reports that the controversial portion in the textbook had been withdrawn; the CJI calls it a calculated attempt to denigrate the judiciary

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday registered a *suo motu* case over a "selective reference" in a Class 8 textbook, published by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), about "corruption" in the judiciary.

A three-judge Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M. Pancholi is scheduled to hear the case titled "In Re : Social Science Textbook for Grade-8 (Part 2) published by NCERT and ancillary issues" at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday.

The Supreme Court decided to go ahead and register a *suo motu* case even as media reports flashed that the portion in question in the textbook had been withdrawn.

The NCERT is tasked with developing curriculum frameworks, publishing textbooks and conducting research. FILE PHOTO

Chief Justice Kant was livid as he referred to the textual content as a "tentatively calculated, deep-rooted attempt" to denigrate the judicial institution. "I will not let anything like that to happen," he emphasised when senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Abhishek Manu Singhvi brought up the issue in open court.

Mr. Sibal said that the reference to "corruption", particularly in relation to the judiciary, seemed deliberate.

"It is as if there is no corruption in other organs of governance – Ministers, bureaucrats, the police, politicians," Mr. Sibal and Mr. Singhvi said.

'Calculated move'

Chief Justice Kant said he had received many calls from the Bar and from the High Courts about the content in the textbook.

"I will not allow anybody to defame the institution. Law will take its course. As the head of the institution, I have done my duty and I have taken cognisance. This seems to be a calculated move... I will not say much," Chief Justice said.

Justice Bagchi indicated that the mention in the school book affected Constitutional integrity and impacted the principle of separation of powers, a fundamental part of the Basic Structure Doctrine.

The chapter 'The Role of the Judiciary in Our Society' in a Class 8 Social Science book prescribed by NCERT mentions that corruption, a massive backlog of cases, and a lack of adequate number of judges were among the "challenges" faced by the judicial system.

NCERT apologises for 'inappropriate textual material'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Hours after the Supreme Court of India registered a *suo motu* case on Wednesday over the inclusion of a section on "corruption" in the judiciary in its newest social science textbook for Class 8, the National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) issued a statement apologising for the "inappropriate textual material" and "error in judgement" that had "inadvertently crept" into the chapter in question.

Officials said directions had been issued on Tuesday to keep the distribution of this book on "strict hold until further orders".

On Wednesday morning, the Supreme Court registered the *suo motu* case calling the section "a selective reference", even as the NCERT apologised in its statement later in the night saying "it regrets this error of judgement".

"NCERT holds the judiciary in highest esteem and considers it to be the upholder of the Indian Constitution and protector of Fundamental Rights. The aforesaid error is purely unintentional and NCERT regrets the inclusion of inappropriate material in the said chapter," the NCERT said in a statement.

The NCERT said that the objective of the new textbook is to "strengthen constitutional literacy, institutional respect, and informed understanding of democratic participation amongst students", adding that "there is no intent to question or diminish the authority of any constitutional body".

It said that since NCERT remains "open to constructive feedback" as "part of its continuous review process", the material in question "shall be re-written, with consultation of the appropriate authority".

Officials to keep track of census data collection real time

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Satellite imagery to be used for clear identification of habitations and settlements

The field operations during the upcoming first-ever digital Population Census 2027 will be monitored in real time on a portal by senior officials to "oversee progress, identify gaps or delays, and ensure timely completion of activities in accordance with prescribed timelines," the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (RG&CCI) has informed the States. Mritunjay Kumar Narayan, RG&CCI, said that around 32 lakh field functionaries will be deployed to carry out the "task of national importance, covering the entire country within a prescribed time frame."

To effectively manage and monitor the various census-related activities, a dedicated web-based portal - the Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS) - has been developed, he said.

The first phase of the Census - houselisting operations (HLO), during which 33 questions regarding housing conditions, amenities etc. will be asked - is scheduled from April 1 to September 30 in all States and Union Territories.

The second phase is population enumeration, when the demographic, socio-conomic, cultural, and caste details are to be collected. It will be conducted in February 2027.

Improved efficiency

The communication to the States said that the ensuing Census 2027 will make extensive use of digital technology to enhance the quality, efficiency, and timeliness of data collection and dissemination.

For the first time in Census operations, "working maps" shall be generated with the latest available satellite imagery to enable clear identification of habitations and settlements on the ground.

Govt. to procure business jets for defence dignitaries and chiefs of armed forces

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Defence Ministry has issued a Request for Information (RFI) to procure long-range business jets for senior defence dignitaries and chiefs of the armed forces.

A senior Ministry official said the government plans to replace the existing fleet of business jets with the Indian Air Force (IAF) that has been in service for 20 years. The replacement is planned in a phased manner and is expected to take time.

The decision to get a new fleet comes against the backdrop of the crash of a VSR Ventures-owned aircraft on January 28 that claimed the lives of Ajit Pawar, Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister, and four others.

Sources said the RFI sought inputs from Indian and foreign vendors for the jets along with associated equipment for the IAF. The first part of the RFI outlines the broad operational characteristics and key technical parameters the aircraft must meet. The second part specifies the methodology for vendor response submission, including compliance requirements and prescribed formats.

Four Embraer jets were inducted into the Indian Air Force in 2005 for VIP use and communication duties. FILE PHOTO

The government will assess options in domestic and global markets before proceeding with the acquisition.

On September 21, 2005, four Embraer Legacy 600 business jets were inducted into the Air Headquarters Communication Squadron of the IAF, with three aircraft delivered initially and the fourth arriving a few months later. The aircraft were named Meghdoot, Vayudoot, Nabhdoot, and Gagandoot, and have since been used for VIP and communication duties.

The existing Embraer fleet requires a take-off distance of 1,800 metres and a landing distance of 1,400 metres, allowing operations from most airfields in India and abroad. The jets are equipped with self-protection suites to guard against missile threats.

SC denies plea against film title *Yadav Ji Ki Love Story*

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday declined to entertain a plea challenging the title of the film *Yadav Ji Ki Love Story*, observing that the name neither had any negative connotations nor portrayed the Yadav community in a bad light.

A Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan rejected the petition filed by Awdesh Kumar Yadav, who argued that the title sounded denigrating to the Yadav community. Mr. Yadav invoked the court's February 19 order in a plea filed against the name of another film, *Ghooskhor Pandat*. In that case, the filmmaker had to withdraw the film's name.

Distinguishing the two cases, the court said the expression '*Ghooskhor*' meant corruption and could be read as picturing the Pandit community in a negative light. However, in the present case, the court said the name of the film did not contain any adjective or word that portrayed the Yadav community negatively.

Courts now justify environment degradation: former SC judge

The Hindu Bureau
NIMLI

Former Supreme Court judge Justice Deepak Gupta on Wednesday said that courts now justify environmental degradation and attacked the judiciary over different decisions, ranging from giving a clean chit to Vantara to allowing the Great Nicobar project.

Justice Deepak Gupta

"The Supreme Court and the High Courts were very active. They took a proactive role in protecting the environment. Unfortunately, that is not true anymore," he said at the Anil Agarwal Dialogue 2026, organised by the Centre for Science and Environment, at Nimli in Rajasthan.

"Now, there are certain phrases which the court uses to justify environmental degradation. Procedure has become more important than the environment," he said, adding that courts mostly check only if procedure is followed.

"I'm sorry, that is not where the court's role finishes. The procedure may have been followed, but if the end result is an environmental disaster, the court is required to step in," Justice Gupta added.

"I want to give two (examples). The Nicobar case is one in which the NGT (said) procedure was followed. The procedure may be followed. I have read a court order that you cut trees in the Andamans, for palm oil plantations, which is the most damaging for the ecology. And the compensatory trees will be planted in Haryana and Rajasthan. What nonsense are we talking? Compensatory afforestation has become a joke," he said.

Justice Gupta said the second example is Vantara (the Reliance-owned animal rehabilitation centre in Gujarat). "I can't understand how the Supreme Court went (about the case). It seems the Vantara people got the writ petition filed. The Supreme Court says if a Chief Minister makes some remarks that are unpalatable, then go to the High Court. But in Vantara, the top court appointed a commission, which gave a report in one week and they said everything is hunky- dory," he said.

Panel discussion for students, professionals on new career options

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), in collaboration with *The Hindu*, will organise a hybrid panel discussion series titled "Future Career Conversations" to support students and working professionals in making informed academic and career decisions.

The first webinar titled "The Innovation Bridge: Universities as India's New R&D Powerhouses" will be held at 11.30 a.m. on February 28. It will examine how universities are strengthening translational research and industry-led R&D to bridge the research-to-market gap and convert intellectual property to real-world impact.

The panel comprises Shantanu Patil, director-Entrepreneurship and Innovation, SRMIST; N. Venkata Sastry, director-Career Centre, SRMIST; Krishnan Naganathan, innovation consultant and founder, Think Horizon Consulting LLP; and Mahesh Ramachandran, founder, CIGS Tech Innovations and Partner, Pontaq Cross Border Innovation Fund. The session will be moderated by journalist Soma Basu. Registration is at newsth.live/THSRMTE

Art, cinema cannot be used to vilify communities, says SC judge

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Justice Ujjal Bhuyan of the Supreme Court has held the mirror to divisive forces within society that have weaponised visual arts, speeches, memes, anfd cartoons to "vilify and denigrate" entire communities.

"It is constitutionally impermissible for anybody, be it the state or non-state actors, through any medium, such as, speeches, memes, cartoons, visual arts, etc., to vilify and denigrate any community. It will be violative of the Constitution to target any particular community on the basis of religion, language, caste or region by whosoever he or she may be," Justice Bhuyan wrote in a February 19 judicial order published on Wednesday.

Justice Ujjal Bhuyan

The judge said the spirit of fraternity had to be kept alive especially by public figures holding high Constitutional offices. They had, after all, the judge reminded, taken the "solemn oath to uphold the Constitution".

Justice Bhuyan referred to the use of threat of violence and intimidation to stop exhibition of Censor Board-certified films, saying these actions, if not checked, would lead to anarchy and cripple the right to freedom of speech and expression.

The order was pronounced by a Bench of Justice B.V. Nagarathna and he in a petition filed by Atul Mishra, National Organisation Secretary of the Brahman Samaj of India, seeking directions to stay the release of the movie *Ghooskhor Pandat* on Netflix.

The petitioners had found the title offensive. The filmmaker had capitulated, withdrawing the name.

The court had commented about the fragility of sensibilities nowadays.

The judge said the right of a moviemaker to either send a message across to the society at large or make a film for pure entertainment was traceable to Article 19(1)(a) (freedom of speech) of the Constitution.

Mamata says names of 1.2 cr. voters may be deleted after SIR

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Mamata Banerjee

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday expressed concern that the names of about 1.2 crore voters may be deleted following the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the State. The final rolls are likely to be published on Saturday.

"In the first phase, 58 lakh names were excluded. Then they are secretly excluding [more] people again in the name of logical discrepancy. It will be 80 lakh, not 50 lakh. If we assume that 20 lakh voters have died, then the names of about 1.2 crore people will be excluded from the voter list," the Chief Minister said.

Speaking at an event in her Assembly constituency, Bhabanipur, Ms. Banerjee said that she had fought against the SIR exercise in the Supreme Court.

"I myself went and fought in the Supreme Court. The petition is still pending. Many days have passed since the court's order. I don't know what will happen to the list that will be published on the February 28," she said.

The Trinamool Congress chairperson said that she would pray for those whose names might be deleted from the electoral rolls. Addressing members of the Jain community at the event, she said that her concerns were not about religious or political affiliations of the party.

"I am for humanity. It does not matter who is Trinamool, who is BJP, who is CPM. Who is Hindu, who is Muslim, who is Sikh, who is Jain, who is Christian. I just want to ensure that democracy in the country is protected and the rights of every citizen are upheld," she said.

Class 10 admit cards can be used in Bengal SIR: SC

Voters can submit the cards and pass certificates as they show details of both birth, parentage, Bench tells EC; the court had expanded judicial team on Tuesday to help speed up the process

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Document verification: People waiting in a queue for special intensive revision hearings in Nadia, West Bengal. PTI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday clarified that the *Madhyamik* (Class 10) admit card may be submitted along with the *Madhyamik* pass certificate as proof of birth and parentage by electors during the verification of their claims and objections in the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant directed that verification documents which have not been uploaded so far, and received before February 14, should be submitted by the Election Registration Officers or Assistant Election Registration Officers by 5 p.m. on Thursday.

Justice Joymalya Bagchi, on the Bench, told the Election Commission that the *Madhyamik* admit cards in West Bengal comprehensively showed details of both birth and parentage. The EC had sought the clarification in an oral mentioning.

Court intervention

The Supreme Court on February 20 had taken the "extraordinary" decision to involve the judiciary in the SIR exercise in Bengal, pointing to the persistent "trust deficit" between the Mamata Banerjee government and the EC, which had led to a "stalemate".

The court had on that day requested the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court to deploy a force of serving and retired judicial officers of "impeccable integrity" in West Bengal to take over the quasi-judicial task of EROs and AEROs.

They would be hearing lakhs of voters who found themselves purged from the West Bengal draft roll, and had received hearing notices after the poll panel found them "unmapped" or detected "logical discrepancies" in their personal details. Subsequently, on Tuesday, the court moved in quickly to swell the ranks of judicial officers deployed to aid in the completion of the SIR process, even alerting neighbouring Odisha and Jharkhand to spare their judges.

The court had instructed that the verification of objections and claims regarding logical discrepancies/unmapping would be based on documents listed in the EC's October 27, 2025 SIR notification.

The Supreme Court had underscored that Aadhaar and Class 10 admit card and pass certificate would be considered as proof during SIR verification. It had directed EROs and AEROs to cooperate with the judicial officers.

Most significantly, the court has allowed the poll body to publish a voter list in West Bengal on February 28.

However, supplementary lists would be published on a continuous basis till nominations are filed for the Assembly election.

Veteran Communist leader R. Nallakannu passes away at 101

B. Kolappan
CHENNAI

R. Nallakannu. N. RAM

R. Nallakannu, freedom fighter and a towering figure of the Communist movement, passed away in Chennai on Wednesday. He was 101. He had been unwell and undergoing treatment at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, where he breathed his last. He is survived by two daughters.

The body will be kept at the State headquarters of the Communist Party of India here for the public to pay homage. Following his wish, the body will be donated to Madras Medical College for medical research.

Fondly known as RNK in party circles, he chose to remain with the CPI when the Communist movement in India split in 1964 following the India-China war. He served as the Tamil Nadu State secretary of the CPI for three tenures since 1992.

A dedicated field worker and organisational man, Nallakannu led a tireless campaign against the mafia that was illegally mining sand from the Thamirabarani river basin. In 2010, he filed a PIL petition and personally argued the case in the Madras High Court, securing a stay order against sand mining.

Soft-spoken and affable, RNK embodied the values of sacrifice, idealism, and unwavering commitment to the Communist movement and social justice.

He shared with leaders such as Jeeva and K. Balathandayutham a love for the poems of poet Subramania Bharati and the hymns of the Azhwars, particularly Andal and Nammazhwar.

Police torture

RNK was sentenced to life imprisonment in the Nellai conspiracy case, along with Balathandayutham, P. Manikkam, I. Mayandibharathi, and many others. He spent many years underground during periods when the Communist Party was banned – first by the British, and later by the Congress government led by Jawaharlal Nehru. He endured severe police brutality; he was unable to grow a moustache thereafter, as a police officer had singed his upper lip with a cigarette butt.

"I was hiding in a friend's house when the police arrested me. After securing some bombs, they tied my hands and beat me. But I refused to reveal the names of Communist leaders," he had said in an interview.

Born in 1925 in Srivaikundam, Thoothukudi district, RNK joined the freedom movement as a school boy, in a region that was a nerve centre of the Independence struggle, nurtured by V.O. Chidambaram.

"Political leaders would travel to Thoothukudi through my native town of Srivaikundam. I would join the local leaders in organising meetings. You should have heard Pappankulam Chockalingam speak about the Jallianwala Bagh massacre – the entire crowd would weep uncontrollably," he recalled in a 2019 interview with *The Hindu*.

RNK was deeply troubled by the emergence of the RSS-BJP in the political landscape and always expressed concern over the undermining of public sector undertakings and trade unions. He was also in favour of unification of the Communist parties.

Vice-President's tribute

A tribute by Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan, who won against RNK in the 1999 Lok Sabha election from the Coimbatore constituency as a BJP candidate, speaks volumes about the Communist leader's character. "I was actually upset that a dignified leader like him could not win the election," wrote Mr. Radhakrishnan in a book on RNK, *Aravazhvin Adayalam*, published by *The Hindu Tamil Thisai*.

Nallakannu won the *Thagaisal Thamizhar* award of the State government in 2022. But he contributed the prize money ₹10 lakh to the Chief Minister Relief Fund along with his contribution of ₹5,000

Gandhi family, Congress are compromised, alleges BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Wednesday accused the Gandhi family and the Congress of being "completely compromised", claiming that they prioritised personal benefit over national interest.

At a press briefing in Patna, BJP president Nitin Nabin alleged that from the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to present Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, it was the story of a "compromised legacy". He alleged that during the Nehru rule, India's sovereignty was compromised.

Mr. Nabin listed allegations ranging from foreign interference and corruption to "compromises" made on matters of national interest during the prime ministership of Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, and Rajiv Gandhi. He accused Congress leader Sonia Gandhi of running "a parallel government" during the UPA rule.

He said most of Mr. Gandhi's 247-plus foreign trips were "not disclosed to security agencies", and accused him of meeting "anti-India figures" abroad and visiting "sensitive border areas with George Soros-backed foreign citizens".

'Negative politics'

Union Minister Piyush Goyal also made similar accusations. "Mr. Gandhi has become the 'poster boy' of negative politics ... during foreign trips, he compromises the Yellow Book protocol [security guidelines for the protection of high-category VIPs and VVIPs] and engages in actions compromising the interests of India and its people," Mr. Goyal alleged.

He alleged Mr. Gandhi had links with "anti-national" forces. He cited Mr. Gandhi's meeting with U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar, who has been accused of being close to billionaire investor George Soros. "He is functioning like a puppet of foreign powers," he said.

Rahul targets Modi over trip to Israel and trade deal with U.S., brings up 'Epstein Files'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rahul Gandhi

The Congress on Wednesday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Israel, with the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, asking "on whose orders the Prime Minister has gone to sign a deal against the country's interest".

In a post on X, Mr. Gandhi said he had challenged the Prime Minister to cancel the India-U.S. trade deal, but Mr. Modi had quietly left for Israel. "At least once, you've already 'danced and sung' in Israel at Epstein's behest – so this time, on whose orders will you return after striking a deal against the country's interests?" he said.

He was referring to emails released as part of the "Epstein Files", in which the convicted American sex offender, the late Jeffrey Epstein, claimed that U.S. President Donald Trump played a role in the Prime Minister's 2017 visit to Israel. However, on January 31, the Ministry of External Affairs described the contents of the emails as "trashy ruminations by a convicted criminal".

Despite such denials, Congress leader Pawan Khera on Wednesday cited purported email exchanges between Union Minister Hardeep Puri, former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and industrialist Anil Ambani, and alleged that the foundation of the India-Israel relationship was laid by Epstein. "Epstein is a notorious sex offender for the common people, but a hero for the Modi government's foreign policy," Mr. Khera alleged.

Earlier, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said India had taken a moral position on Palestine and claimed that it was a different era.

"Now the Indian Prime Minister is brazenly embracing the Prime Minister of Israel, who has reduced Gaza to rubble and dust and is orchestrating the expansion of illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank. When the entire world is critical of his 'dear friend' Benjamin Netanyahu, Mr. Modi will be displaying moral cowardice," he said.

EC proposes synergy with SECs to align electoral processes

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Commission moots sharing of EVMs, electoral rolls and the ECINET digital platform

The Election Commission has proposed to work out mutually acceptable mechanisms and legally viable frameworks with all State Election Commissions across the country to synergise election-related processes, including the sharing of electronic voting machines (EVM), electoral rolls, and the ECINET digital platform.

At a national round table conference of the EC and State Election Commissioners, which concluded in New Delhi on Tuesday, a declaration was adopted stating that EC and SECs would work together to synergise the laws governing elections to panchayats and municipal bodies with those relating to elections to Parliament and State legislatures, and strengthen cooperation to further national and constitutional interest, according to an official statement issued by the EC on Wednesday.

The State Election Commissions from 30 States participated in the conference, chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. The SECs affirmed that the preparation of pure electoral rolls formed the bedrock of democracy and that transparent and efficient conduct of elections strengthened democratic institutions.

Mr. Kumar too highlighted the importance of strengthening institutional coordination between the EC and SECs.

Manipur MLA's kin refuse burial till govt. announces new district and NIA probe

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The family of Manipur BJP MLA Vungzagin Valte, who passed away at a hospital in Haryana on February 21, has refused to bury him until its demands – a separate district for the Zomi tribe and a probe by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) into his death – are met by the government, his family and community members said.

Valte belonged to the Zomi community and was assaulted by a mob on May 4, 2023 in Imphal, a day after ethnic violence erupted between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei people. He could not recover from the injuries sustained then.

Valte's body was flown from Delhi to Aizawl in Mizoram, at the request of the family. It was brought to his residence at Churachandpur in Manipur on February 24 via road from the Lengpui airport in Aizawl. As the convoy passed, people paid tributes.

Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh is learnt to have told the family that arrangements would be made to the accord State honours to Valte.

List with Governor

However, Valte's son, Joseph, told *The Hindu* that the family members had handed over a list of demands to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla, and that the burial will not take place till they are fulfilled.

A total shutdown was observed in Churachandpur district on Tuesday. The State government had declared official mourning from February 22 to 24.

Vumsuan Naulak, chairman, Zomi Council, said a postmortem was done on Wednesday. The community leaders will convene a meeting to decide the future course of action. "We have a list of demands and till the government accepts the condition, the burial is unlikely," Mr. Naulak said.

The three-time MLA was attacked when he was returning after attending a security review meeting. No arrests have been made in the case so far.

ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PHED REGION-I JAIPUR
Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur (Raj.) E-Mail- ace1.jpr.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
No- ACE/PHED/Ar.Dausa/ 2025-26/Date

NOTICE INVITING BID (Nit No. 03/2025-26)

On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan NIT No. 03/2025-26 online tender is hereby invited from eligible bidders for "Water Supply Scheme for Augmentation of UWSS Lalsot, Bandikui, Mandawar and Mandawari, District Dausa including 05 years O&M after 01 year Defect Liability period under AMRUT 2.0". Interested bidders may participated upto **06.00 PM** on dated **16.03.2026** as per criteria mentioned in the detailed NIT/Tender document available on website: https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in & http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in. Tenders are to be submitted online in electronic format on website https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in as per prescribed schedule.

NIT No.	Particular	Estt. Cost (Rs. In Lakh)	UBN No.
03/2025-26	"Water Supply Scheme for Augmentation of UWSS Lalsot, Bandikui, Mandawar and Mandawari, District Dausa including 05 years O&M after 01 year Defect Liability period under AMRUT 2.0"	2640.73	PHE2526WLOB14606

NIB CODE- PHE2526A6764
DIPR/C/4016 **Additional Chief Engineer**

Odisha Police - Office of the D.G & I.G. of Police, Odisha, Cuttack
Tel. : 0671-2304001, Website :www.odishapolice.gov.in , Email: aig-prov.odpol@od.gov.in
RFP No. 41-RFP-Water Cannon -2025-2026 Date : 24.02.2026

Online Bids through e-Tender Portal **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** are invited from the eligible bidders for Supply of Water cannon for Odisha Police, Odisha, Cuttack, during the current financial year 2025-26 as per the schedule mentioned below.

Sl.No.	Name of Item	Approximate quantity
1.	41-RFP- Water Cannon - 2025-2026	02 Nos

Events	Date
RFP Issue Date	24.02.2026
RFP Submission Due Date and time	05.03.2026 at 11.00 AM
Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids	05.03.2026 at 03.00 PM
Bid to RA enabled	Yes
Tender Document fee {(Non-refundable Rs.590/-{Rs.500/-+ 18% GST (Rs. 90/-)}	In favour of A.I.G. of Police (Prov.), Odisha, Cuttack payable at Cuttack. (Demand Draft)
EMD (Earnest Money Deposit) Rs: 2,48,000/- (Two Lakh forty-eight thousand only)	In favour of A.I.G. of Police (Prov.), Odisha, Cuttack payable at Cuttack. (Demand Draft)

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: https://tendersodisha.gov.in. The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.
A.I.G. of Police (Provisioning), Odisha, Cuttack. (Tender Calling Authority)
12001/34/2526 OIPR-12001/12018/1/25-26/0004

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE
INVITATION OF APPLICATIONS
ESTABLISHMENT OF OIL PALM FACTORIES IN TELANGANA
NOTIFICATION

Telangana is one of the biggest producers of Palm Oil in the Country. There is tremendous potential for Oil Palm development in Telangana. Government of Telangana has already allotted factory zones to 30 districts of the state for establishment of Oil Palm factories. Now the Government of Telangana has decided to invite applications for allotment of factory zones for Oil palm cultivation in the following Districts.

Sl.No.	District	Area identified (hectrares)
1	Kumarambheem Asifabad	12221

Under Oil palm (Regulation of Production and Processing) Act 1993, Government is empowered to allot factory zones in favour of Agencies selected for Oil Palm area expansion and setting up of Oil palm processing units. Interested Firms / Companies / Co-operatives desirous of setting up of Oil Palm Processing unit may download the application form from the website **http://horticulture.tg.nic.in** from 26.02.2026. The filledin application form to be submitted in the Oil palm Section, O/o. Director of Horticulture, Public Gardens, Hyderabad - 500004 on or before 10.03.2026, 5.00 PM by paying an amount of Rs.20,000/- (Non-refundable) towards application fee and Security deposit of Rs.1,00,000/- through separate DDs in favour of Secretary, SHN, Payable at Hyderabad. Applications may also be obtained from Oil palm Section, O/o. Director of Horticulture, Public Gardens, Hyderabad - 500004 on all working days from 17.03.2026 onwards, between 10.30 AM to 5.00 PM, by paying an amount of Rs.20,000/- (Non-refundable) through DD in favour of Secretary, SHN, Payable at Hyderabad. Last date for submission of completely filled in applications is 10.03.2026, 5.00 PM.

Sd/-Director of Horticulture, Telangana State
DIPR R.O.No.1217-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt:25-02-2026

Bhubaneswar Development Authority
Akash Shova Building, Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar - 751001, Odisha. Ph: 0674-2396437

Notice No: 3701/ BDA Date : 18/02/2026
BDA-PPP-PLAN-0001-2026 (OSWAS)

Request for Proposal (RFP)
COMPOSITE COMMUNITY MARKET & HIGH-END RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL FACILITIES over Prime land at Jharpada, Bhubaneswar on Public Private Partnership (PPP) - Call 2

The **Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA)** invites Private Developers for the development of a Composite Project including a 'Community Market'and Residential and/or Commercial facilities over 0.7818 Ha (1.932 Ac) of prime freehold land at Bhubaneswar on PPP mode. The site enjoys a frontage on both the 24 meters wide Jail Road and 9 meters wide Jharpada road. Additionally, the proposed 60 meters wide Jharpada Canal Road (CDP Road) will add greater proximity to the site.

Interested agencies may participate in this tender through the e-procurement portal of the Government of Odisha. The RFP documents will be available from **20.02.2026 to 23.03.2026** and can be downloaded from **www.odishatenders.gov.in**. The completed proposal, as per instruction in the RFP document, should be uploaded in the portal latest by **23.03.2026 up to 1600 hrs**. The Pre-Bid meeting is on **06.03.2026 at 1600 hrs**. at the Office of the BDA. Please refer to the RFP document for further details.

BDA reserves the right to cancel this invitation and / or invite fresh Bid / RFP with or without amendments to this invitation, without liability or any obligation for such invitation and without assigning any reason. BDA reserves the right to accept or reiect any or all proposals without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd/- Secretary-cum-Member Estate, Bhubaneswar Development Authority
13001/369/2526 OIPR-13001/13033/1/25-26/0037

INBRIEF

SC halts case against Soren for skipping summons by ED

The Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed criminal proceedings initiated on a complaint filed by the ED against Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren for willfully disobeying summons issued by it in a money laundering case. A Bench of the Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi remarked these were "*in terrorem*" (threatening) proceedings started off by the Central agency with a design to intimidate.

Property worth ₹3,716 crore linked to Anil Ambani: ED

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) provisionally attached a residential property worth ₹3,716.83 crore, located in Mumbai's Pali Hill, linked to businessman Anil Ambani in connection with the alleged Reliance Communications Limited (RCom) bank fraud case on Wednesday. The agency's probe is based on a FIR registered by the CBI against RCom, and others. As alleged, RCom and its group companies had taken loans from domestic and foreign lenders, of which a total amount of ₹40,185 crore is outstanding.

Loose connection made satellite miss orbit: panel

The apex committee says the signal meant to activate a key valve in the engine's oxidiser line never reached it; this valve is crucial for firing the engine to raise the orbit of NVS-02

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

After nearly a year's delay, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) made public the report of a committee constituted to analyse why the NVS-02 satellite, which was launched aboard a GSLV rocket on January 29 last year, could not be placed in its intended orbit.

The apex committee, as it is called, concluded that the main reason for what happened was that the signal meant to activate a key valve in the engine's oxidiser line never reached it. This valve is crucial for firing the engine to raise the spacecraft's orbit.

Off track: The NVS-02 navigation satellite aboard the launch vehicle GSLV-F15 in Sriharikota on January 29, 2025. ANI

Faulty connection

The committee said the most likely explanation was that at least one connection in the electrical connector – in both the primary and back-up lines – came loose or failed, preventing the signal from getting through.

NVS-02, the second spacecraft in the NVS series, was placed successfully into an 'elliptical transfer' orbit on January 29, 2025 at 00:53 UT but its subsequent transfer to a circular orbit was unsuccessful. This was also a special occasion being the 100th launch from the Sriharikota launchpad. The spacecraft was separated from the launch vehicle (GSLVF15) following which a series of autonomous activities on the satellite were carried out, including deploying the solar panel and stabilising the orientation for power generation.

The NVS-02 was to be the second satellite in the NVS series, and part of India's Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC).

The committee, an ISRO statement said, gave a set of recommendations to "enhance" the redundancy and reliability of pyro system operations for future missions. These were "successfully implemented in CMS-03 spacecraft launched on November 2, 2025 by LVM-3 M5, and the pyro systems performed satisfactorily placing the satellite in the intended orbit."

The CMS-03, or GSAT-7R, is an indigenously designed and developed satellite, weighing approximately 4,400 kg – India's heaviest communication satellite – and is critical to the Navy's space-based communications and maritime domain awareness.

The Hindu reported this week that a committee that includes K. Vijayraghavan, former Principal Scientific Adviser, and S. Somanath, former Chairman, ISRO, will probe "systemic issues" underlying the successive failures of ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

Centre dismisses RTI plea for details of VB-G RAM G Act

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Rural Development Ministry has rejected a Right to Information (RTI) application that sought details of consultations the Centre held with the State governments before introducing the new rural employment law – the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025.

Minister's news article

The RTI application referred to an article by Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, published in *The Hindu* on December 24, in which he stated that the Bill was "preceded by extensive consultations with State governments, technical workshops and multi-stakeholder discussions".

He had also said that the core design features of the legislation were shaped by lessons from years of implementation as well as feedback from the States.

Chakradhar Buddha of the United Forum for RTI Campaign sought records of these pre-legislative consultations with States, along with details of technical workshops and multi-stakeholder discussions cited by Mr. Chouhan. He also sought internal notes showing how inputs from these consultations were incorporated into the drafting of the VB-G RAM G Act, 2025.

In its response, the Ministry said the information could not be shared because the scheme "has not yet been formally notified by the States/U.T.s and has not become operational in any State/U.T."

The Ministry added that the implementation process was still under way and the matter had "not attained finality or completion".

Disclosing the information at this stage, it said, would involve sharing records of "ongoing deliberations and decision-making relating to policy implementation".

Bill to replace UGC, AICTE is with Ministries, says govt.

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The draft Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA) Bill, 2025, to overhaul the higher education regulatory framework in India, was circulated among 39 Union Ministries and departments as part of inter-ministerial consultations, the government has informed the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) looking into the Bill, *The Hindu* has learnt.

The Bill proposes the setting up of a 12-member umbrella commission - the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan - to replace the University Grants Commission (UGC), the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), and the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE).

Unlike the UGC, the new commission will not have the power to disburse grants. The Bill hands over the funding power to "mechanisms devised by the Ministry of Education".

The 31-member JPC is headed by BJP MP D. Purandeswari. In a communication to the JPC ahead of its first meeting on Thursday, the government explained the background to the Bill and its provisions.

The draft Bill seeks to overhaul the higher education regulatory framework. ISTOCK

Separate councils

The Bill intends to subsume the UGC, AICTE, and NCTE, by repealing the laws under which these bodies were set up. The commission will include separate regulatory standards, and accreditation councils.

The VBSA Bill was introduced by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in Parliament in December 2025, even as MPs from across Opposition parties opposed it. They said the Bill represented "executive overreach", subjected higher educational institutes to "pervasive executive control, graded autonomy, intrusive compliance requirements, severe penalties, and closure powers"; and went against the principles of federalism.

Soon after the Bill's introduction, the government said it would be examined by a JPC, which was constituted earlier this month.

Sources told *The Hindu* that the government, in its communication to the panel, explained the rationale behind separating the grant of disbursal powers from the regulatory authority, saying that this was needed to remove potential conflict of interest, and to ensure transparency.

At the JPC meeting on Thursday, officials of the Education Ministry and the Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department) are expected to brief the panel members on the VBSA Bill.

SIM-binding directions for platforms to stay: Minister

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Wednesday that the SIM-binding directions from November 2025 would remain in force. This would require messaging apps such as WhatsApp to do two things: forcibly log out users on services such as WhatsApp Web every six hours and stop functioning if the user does not have the registered SIM provisioned on their device. February 28 is the deadline for compliance.

"As of now, there is no thought on an extension" for compliance with the rules, Mr. Scindia said during a press interaction. "The logout thing [after six hours] is only for multiple connections on the same instrument, when you go to your computer and so on and so forth ... The rules stand as is at this point, and the reasons for that are very well-founded not only from a fraud aspect, but also from a security aspect."

'Justice Unplugged' to look at new challenges for law

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

'Justice Unplugged 2026', a joint initiative of *The Hindu* and VIT, Chennai, will be held on February 28 in New Delhi. The guests at the inaugural include Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, judge, Supreme Court; Abhishek Manu Singhvi, senior advocate. and G. Viswanathan, Founder and Chancellor, Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT).

G.V. Selvam, Vice-President, Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), will be in conversation with L.V. Navaneeth, CEO of The Hindu Group, on the current state of legal education in India.

The first panel discussion addresses the seismic shifts caused by Gen-AI-induced technological transformation, featuring a diverse group of experts, including Garima Singh, Judicial Law Clerk-cum-Research Associate to Justice Ujjal Bhuyan; Neha Rathi, Advocate-on-Record, Supreme Court; and Jishnu J. R., Head of the Department, B.B.A. LL.B. (Hons), VIT School of Law (VITSOL), VIT Chennai.

VITSOL VIT School Of Law
presents
JUSTICE UNPLUGGED 2026
Shaping the Future of Law
in association with THE HINDU

The first panel discussion will be on Gen-AI-induced technological transformation

In the afternoon is scheduled a session dedicated to 'Fundamental Rights in the Digital Age'; The panel, comprising Shadan Farasat, Senior Advocate; Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Senior Advocate; and M. S. Sharmila, Head of the Department, Centre for Postgraduate Legal Studies (LL.M. Programme), VIT School of Law (VITSOL), VIT Chennai, will examine how India's Constitution responds to the complex trends of a hyper-connected world. This will be followed by a close look at the craft itself in a session exploring the art of constitutional thinking, where S. Muralidhar, Senior Advocate and former Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa, will elaborate on how great lawyers are made – through rigorous discipline, philosophical depth, and a commitment to justice. The final panel of the day, featuring Shreya Arora Mehta, District and Additional Sessions Judge, Delhi; Sanchita Ain, Advocate-on-Record, Supreme Court; Karuna Nundy, Senior Advocate; and Tania Sebastian, Head of the Department, VIT School of Law (VITSOL), VIT Chennai, takes a pragmatic turn toward 'Improving Legal Access', tackling the vital challenge of making justice truly accessible to every citizen.

Kapil Sibal, Senior Advocate, and N. Ram, Director of The Hindu Group, will engage in an in-depth conversation on constitutional morality and the Supreme Court.

2013 U.P. riots: 37 acquitted by court for lack of proof

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Citing lack of evidence, a Muzaffarnagar court recently acquitted 37 persons accused of killing eight people during the communal violence that rocked the Uttar Pradesh district in 2013.

The communal riots in Muzaffaranagar in August-September 2013 left over 60 dead. More than 500 FIRs were lodged against hundreds of identified and unidentified persons for crimes such as murder, gang rape, loot, and arson.

In one such incident, Mohd. Imran, a native of Kutba village, alleged that a mob of around 100 people, armed with sharp weapons, attacked houses belonging to members of the minority community. The police booked 37 persons, eight of whom died during trial.

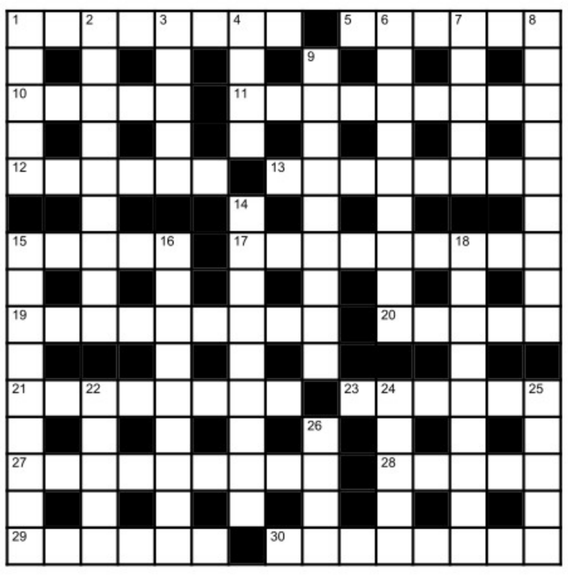
On February 20, Additional District and Sessions Judge Manjula Bhalotiya acquitted all the accused, citing absence of proof against them.

TH CROSSWORD + 14727

(set by Incognito)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Approach new radar under construction (4,4)
5 German submarines moving about stealthily at first (1-5)
10 Toxic substance possessed by aggressive nominee (5)
11 Tricycle going around Bali on tour's a vehicle for rough terrain (5,4)
12 Diary corrected by husband in Arabian city (6)
13 I tutted agitatedly after American's uncooperative behaviour (8)
15 Tin not available in plant (5)
17 Previous partner creates by mistake and swears (9)
19 Wrongly greet Arab for stellar arrangement (5,4)
20 Reject rider's aid with a bit of negativity (5)
21 In America, British soldiers or cadets transferred around (8)
23 Lascar could be a scamp (6)
27 Container after container on European ship displays rotundity (9)
28 Dined at home, breaking a tine (3,2)
29 Tries starting to examine statements and speaks (6)
30 25 capturing mafia chief, an English capitalist! (8)

Down

1 Bird starting to roost in port (5)
2 In any case, no broken cane results in irritation (9)
3 *Mando* composed for migrant (5)
4 Insects found in elephant shed (4)
6 Game poets giving shelter to sick ace (9)
7 Goodbye from aide getting transferred by university (5)
8 Kidnapped author's progeny covering events organised (9)
9 Sailor Peter sails to get ammonium nitrate (9)
14 Observed covering occasion getting three less than a score (9)
15 Fag breaks ice target (9)
16 Gold with god? It, certainly, at last, gives power (9)
18 Cosh Hector and nun badly (9)
22 Bad bets after end of round result in amounts to be paid (5)
24 Poster about conflict gets prize (5)
25 Perhaps, an introvert left one, right? (5)
26 Capital obtained from Barbados lodge (4)

SUDOKU

5		9		1			7	6
			8		9	5		
	6		5			4		
		5	7				1	
	4				5	9		
		6			8		2	
		3	2		7			
8	2			4		7		9

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

No.SS6803 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

	H		P		A		H		W		K		L	
B	E	E	R		S	T	U	P	A		A	L	A	S
	R		O		H		S		R		R		S	
G	E	N	D	E	R		B	U	D	A	P	E	S	T
				U		A		A		A		O		
S	P	A	C	E	M	A	N		N	A	V	A	J	O
	R		E				D		C				O	
M	Y	C	R	O	F	T		S	E	R	P	E	N	T
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I	N	O	N		R	O	C	K	Y		E	D	E	N
	G		K		M		H		S		D		A	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	6	4	8	1	7	3	2	9
3	7	1	6	2	9	4	8	5
9	2	8	5	3	4	7	1	6
7	5	6	1	4	8	9	3	2
8	9	3	2	7	6	1	5	4
4	1	2	3	9	5	6	7	8
6	3	9	7	8	2	5	4	1
1	8	5	4	6	3	2	9	7
2	4	7	9	5	1	8	6	3

FAITH

Tirukkachi Nambi

The guru or acharya is central to our system of philosophy. Even someone close to God cannot gain salvation if one does not have a guru, as exemplified by the life of Tirukkachi Nambi, said P. Swaminathan. Born in Poonamallee near Chennai in the Tamil month of Masi under the Mrugaseerisham star, he received a fair share of his father's estate, but instead of wanting to multiply it, he bought a piece of land and grew flowers in them in order to offer them to Varadaraja Perumal in Kanchi.

People marvelled at his devotion, when he walked to Kanchi every morning, carrying fresh garlands made from fragrant flowers from his garden to the deity at the Varadaraja Perumal temple.

One day, standing near the sanctum sanctorum and gazing upon Varadaraja with total bhakti, he was startled by the beads of perspiration on the idol and was moved to tears at what he perceived as the Lord suffering from sweltering heat. Sensing His devotee's emotions, Varadaraja invited Tirukkachi Nambi to step forward and fan him, much to the latter's delight. This became a daily ritual. In due course, the two began to converse with each other. Once, when Nambi was walking to the temple, he was startled when a person bent down and smeared the earth on which Nambi's feet had touched. Where you walk is sacred ground, and I will be blessed, claimed that man. A curious Nambi asked Varadaraja if the man would attain moksha for his act. The Lord confirmed the same. When Nambi wondered if he would also get moksha for his devotion to Perumal, the Lord said, "For that, we have been conversing with you. To attain moksha, first seek a guru."

INBRIEF

Yes Bank reports ₹2.55 crore unauthorised transactions

Yes Bank on Wednesday said fraudsters had conducted unauthorised transactions worth $0.28 million (₹2.55 crore) using Multi-Currency Prepaid Forex Cards of 5,000 customers. These cards were issued in partnership with BookMyForex.com. Yes Bank said the transactions came to light after the private sector lender's fraud monitoring system declined an unusual increase in transactions conducted overnight at a Latin American country.

Facebook Overseas buys 30% stake in RIL firm for ₹257 cr.

Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) said Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Ltd (REIL), its step-down wholly owned subsidiary, allotted 85,31,75,000 equity shares of face value of ₹10 each, at par to Reliance Intelligence Ltd. (Reliance Intelligence), its wholly owned subsidiary and Facebook Overseas, Inc. (Facebook), a wholly owned unit of Meta Platforms, Inc. It said 25,65,52,500 equity shares aggregating ₹256.6 crore were allotted to Facebook Overseas Inc.

'Govt. mandates sale of E20 petrol with minimum RON 95'

The Centre has mandated the sale of petrol with up to 20% ethanol and a minimum Research Octane Number (RON) of 9 from April 1. The Oil Ministry, in a February 17 notification, said, "the Central government hereby directs oil companies to sell ethanol-blended motor spirit (petrol) with percentage of ethanol up to 20% as per Bureau of Indian Standards specifications and having minimum Research Octane Number (RON) of 95, in States and the Union Territories". PTI

U.S. slaps 126% levy on Indian solar imports

Tariffs were slapped on India, Indonesia and Laos following an ongoing probe; In FY23, India exported $1 billion worth photovoltaics to the U.S.

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Dark days: Staff inspecting solar panels on assembly lines at an Adani Group factory in Gujarat's port city of Mundra. AFP FILE

The Trump administration slapped 126% levy on solar cell imports from India following a 'preliminary' determination that subsidised exports from Indian firms were hurting the competitiveness of U.S. solar firms and contravened World Trade Organization agreements on subsidies.

The tariffs were collectively imposed on February 24 on India, Indonesia and Laos following a probe by the U.S. Department of Commerce on a complaint by the Alliance for American Solar Manufacturing and Trade, a coalition of leading U.S. solar firms.

Indian firms under the U.S. Commerce Ministry's radar included Mundra Solar Energy Pvt. Ltd. and Mundra Solar PV Ltd. – both part of Adani Group – Premier Energies Photovoltaic Private Ltd., Waaree Energies Ltd. and Waaree Solar Americas. The department set initial rates of 86%-143% for Indonesia and 81% for Laos.

Framework deal

This levy comes after New Delhi and Washington agreed on a framework for the India-U.S. trade deal to cut tariffs on India's exports to 18% from 50% earlier. After this, the U.S. Supreme Court quashed Trump tariffs, calling them unconstitutional. President Trump then came up with a new 15% baseline duty on several imports.

On February 24, per a notice on the U.S. Commerce Ministry site, it was Adani firms that were specifically named with a duty rates of 125.87% though these rates, as of now, apply to all Indian exporters.

May be impacted

The Hindu didn't receive comments from the firms as of press time. However, given the U.S. is the biggest export destination for solar parts, Indian exports could likely be 'impacted.' The implications of the order were still being studied, a spokesperson for Solex Energy Ltd., a Surat-based solar firm told *The Hindu*. "There will be an impact as the U.S. is a major export destination. How much... still needs to be determined. Some months sees a surge in exports and less in others, so it could well be, we won't see an impact beyond the immediate quarter," the person explained.

Currently duties of up to 40% are imposed on such export of solar cells.

These duties are additional to existing tariffs. The final determination in the CVD investigations are now scheduled to be issued on July 6, 2026. The U.S. Commerce Department is conducting concurrent anti- dumping duty probe of solar cells from India, Indonesia and Laos.

According to data cited by U.S. authorities, Indian firms in 2022 exported 232 mega watts (MW) worth of solar cells which rose to 2049 MW in 2023 and 2297 MW in 2024.

In 2022-23 $1,000 million worth photovoltaics were exported and that rose to $1,939.92 million in 2023-24. Exports stood at $954 million in April-December 2025.

PMO meets on CAFE-3 norms

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

No final decision was taken on CAFE-3 norms.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) held a meeting on Wednesday to review the proposed carbon emission norms for passenger vehicles slated to take effect from 2027, though no final decision was reached.

A senior government official who was part of the high-level meeting said that there was "no final decision yet", on the contentious issue of draft Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE)-3 norms which have divided small and big carmakers.

Officials of the Ministry of Power, Bureau of Energy Efficiency, and Ministry of Heavy Industries were part of the meeting.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a FICCI event, Minister for Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy said about the proposal, "We already had a meeting with stakeholders and Power Ministry. The Power Ministry, according to my information, sent the proposal to the PMO."

On contents of the proposal, he said, "whatever best way we have to encourage for electric mobility, we are going to take."

Revised draft

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency recently circulated a revised draft of the CAFE III norms to the industry after the earlier version released in September last year triggered divisions among automakers with larger vehicle manufacturers opposing certain relaxations extended to small-car makers.

The latest proposal, shared with car manufacturers but not yet made public, has removed the 3 g CO2/km waiver for cars weighing up to 909 kg and with engine capacity not exceeding 1200 cc. It has also made the emission slope flatter. Against the initial 0.002 value for all five years, the new proposal is 0.00153 in year one, followed by an annual reduction so as to reach 0.00128 in the fifth year. This means permissible emissions for heavier vehicles are lower than before, while small cars get some relief.

Addressing the third FICCI National Conference on Electric Vehicles, Mr. Kumaraswamy said, "electric mobility today is not merely a climate initiative, it is an industrial strategy, a manufacturing opportunity, supply-chain recalibration and a technological leap." Citing the progress of the ₹10,900 crore PM E-DRIVE scheme, he said as of February, over 28 lakh EVs have been sold under the scheme.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	82,276	0.06
US Dollar	90.91	0.04
Brent oil	70.60	-0.73

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2231.70	48.70
Adani Ports	1528.70	-26.70
Apollo Hosp	7783.00	62.50
Asian Paints	2416.40	3.30
Axis Bank	1403.00	15.40
Bajaj Auto	10097.00	268.00
Bajaj Finserv	2049.30	6.00
Bajaj Finance	1021.05	-2.50
Bharat Elec	439.30	4.25
Bharti Airtel	1913.40	-27.60
Cipla	1346.10	19.40
Coal India	438.60	7.65
Dr Reddys Lab	1306.50	6.30
Eicher Motors	8008.00	79.00
Eternal Ltd.	250.20	-3.80
Grasim Ind	2878.40	-0.90
HCL Tech	1378.20	39.00
HDFC Bank	907.60	-2.90
HDFC Life	735.25	0.50
Hindalco	937.40	14.55
Hind Unilever	2374.90	16.30
ICICI Bank	1400.50	15.70
IntGlobeAvi	4947.40	97.10
Infosys	1290.10	14.60
ITC	319.75	-3.75
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	256.95	1.70
JSW Steel	1275.00	20.50
Kotak Bank	424.95	-2.75
L&T	4298.50	39.30
M&M	3491.30	58.10
Maruti Suzuki	15070.00	144.00
Max Healthcare	1088.10	1.70
NestleIndia	1323.40	3.40
NTPC	384.90	2.15
ONGC	277.45	0.95
PowerGrid Corp	307.25	2.45
Reliance Ind	1398.50	-30.30
SBI Life	2073.60	-9.30
State Bank	1200.10	-23.20
Shriram Finance Ltd.	1085.90	24.20
Sun Pharma	1764.20	32.40
TataConsumerProduct	1172.30	-5.70
Tata Steel	214.64	5.51
TCS	2629.30	55.60
Tech Mahindra	1361.80	16.40
Titan	4325.00	30.50
Tata Motors PV	381.85	4.30
Trent Ltd.	3922.00	-9.30
UltraTech Cement	13041.00	81.00
Wipro	201.92	1.78

Zendesk sets up innovation hub

Zendesk said it set up an Innovation Hub for Research and Development in Pune thus growing its footprint in India. The hub team of almost 300 is set to grow by 15% before the end of 2026, the company said.

'SECL, Chhattisgarh eyeing floating solar, coal gasification JVs'

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

Harish Duhan

South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (SECL) is exploring joint-ventures with the State government of Chhattisgarh for floating solar and surface coal gasification projects, CMD Harish Duhan told *The Hindu*.

The miner aspires to institute 626 megawatt (MW) of solar energy capacity by FY2027-28. Further, the joint venture on gasification is part of the design to pursue the method in a revenue-sharing mode.

Elaborating on the ongoing discussions about floating solar, Mr. Duhan stated, "We have had discussions with the Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company Ltd. to pursue floating solar projects considering the State is blessed with large reservoirs," adding, "At present, a guiding larger policy on the front is to be formulated [within the State], and discussions are ongoing."

Mr. Duhan stated SECL would also be looking to tap into closed mines to establish solar power projects alongside contributing to parent Coal India's ongoing projects in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Gasification push

Mr. Duhan held discussions about a coal gasification JV with Chhattisgarh government and it is at the "conceptual stages".

"At present, the Chhattisgarh government is looking to incentivise coal gasification projects," he said, adding, "Positive discussions have been held [towards instituting one]. Then, we shall proceed further and make it formal." He underlined gasification as a process entailed establishing a dedicated set-up converting extracted coal into gas. "This is an additional cost," he said.

Responding to a question about a substantial increase in renewable power installations and coal continuing to command a dominant position in power generation, Mr. Duhan said coal is a "cheaper source, abundantly available and offers stability of power".

"Now, solar and wind-based electricity lacks consistency. Stability of power is imperative in a growing economy like ours, thus, coal would continue to essay an important role," he added. SECL is likely to spend ₹4,000 crore in capital expenditure this year.

'DRL semaglutide may make March debut'

Reuters
MUMBAI

Indian drugmaker Dr. Reddy's Laboratories (DRL) is likely to launch its generic semaglutide injection n the country in March under the brand name Obeda, according to two people familiar with the matter.

Patent protection for semaglutide expires in India in March 2026, triggering a rush among Indian drugmakers to prepare lower-cost versions.

Dr. Reddy's plans to sell about 12 million injectable semaglutide pens in the first year and intends to price it competitively, potentially up to 60% below the branded product, co-Chairman and MD G.V. Prasad told *Reuters* last week.

Get going: Staffers have to get their hands dirty and build solutions using AI tools, says K. Krithivasan. REUTERS

'TCS ok with revenue cannibalisation via AI'

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is "not afraid" of artificial intelligence, and is not worried about potential "cannibalisation" that AI deployment would entail, said K. Kirthivasan, MD and CEO of the country's largest IT company.

The top boss of TCS said senior level staff are slower in building AI-based solutions compared with the "proficient" younger staff.

"We encourage our associates to go out (to customers and use AI)... even if it means cannibalising our revenue," he said.

TCS was "insisting" that each of its more than six lakh staffers update themselves with AI, Mr. Krithivasan said, adding it had no fears of the company taking away livelihood.

AI motivation

Mr. Krithivasan said there was motivation to learn new AI skills but as they approached higher designations, they tend to read a lot but not do anything.

It is not about just giving a few prompts to a generational AI platform such s ChatGPT, he said, adding staffers have to get their hands dirty and build solutions using the AI tools.

Carbon credits for Maruti railway siding

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The railway siding eased road congestion, cut fossil-fuel use.

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (Maruti Suzuki) said its Gujarat in-plant railway siding has been registered as the world's first modal shift transportation project under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) programme of Verra, a global carbon credit registry.

The project is expected to achieve approximately 1.7 lakh carbon credits over a 10-year crediting period from FY24 to FY33, by shifting vehicle dispatches from road to rail, the company said in a statement.

Emission reduction

The emission reduction has been quantified under the AM0090 methodology prescribed under Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC).

Following independent verification of carbon emission saving, Verra will issue 1.7 lakh carbon credits to Maruti Suzuki under its VCS program, it added.

Hisashi Takeuchi, managing director & CEO, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. said in a statement, "By transitioning vehicle movement from road to rail, the project demonstrates how scale, operational efficiency and environmental responsibility can seamlessly go hand in hand."

'Cut carbon footprint'

"Leveraging the inherent efficiency of rail transport, the Gujarat in-plant railway siding has significantly reduced the carbon footprint of our logistics operations, while also easing road congestion and lowering overall fossil fuel consumption," he said.

डॉ. सर्वपल्ली राधाकृष्णन् राजस्थान आयुर्वेद विश्वविद्यालय, जोधपुर
प्रशासनिक खण्ड नागौर रोड़, कड़वड़, जोधपुर (पिन नं. 342037)
Web side : www.raujodhpur.org , E-mail- dsrrau.ao@gmail.com

क्रमांक :- रा.आ.वि./जोध/लेखा/निविदा/2025-26/755 दिनांक :- 19/02/2026

Notice Inviting Bid

Tenders are invited from interested bidders for Dr. S.R. Rajasthan Ayurved University, Karwad, Jodhpur. Whose details are as followings:-

1. **UBN No. AUJ2526WSOB00062** Tender for E-Procurement for Stengthing, Renewal of Internal Road Work at DSRRAU Campus
2. **UBN No. AUJ2526SLOB00064** Tender for E-Procurement of Request for Proposal of Interested Agencies for Computer based Recruitment Test

All particulars of the bid may be visited on the portal **https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in/** and **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in/**

राज.संवाद/सी/25/21073 कुलसचिव

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124**

Brief E- TENDER NOTICE: CORRIGENDUM-A [SALE EXTENSION]

No: SHAR:CMG CIVIL: MAINT: E-PublicTender-16(A)/25-26 Dt: 24.02.2026

Kindly refer to E-Public Tender-16/25-26 dated 29.01.2026 **"AMC for Civil, PH, Water supply etc at PNN & SMN colonies for the year 2026-27"** (T/C-25-059, Est. cost ₹188.38 Lakhs);

Sale period extended up to 09.03.2026

Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/SDSC SHAR

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL S.M.S. MEDICAL COLLEGE & CONTROLLER OF THE ATTACHED HOSPITALS, JAIPUR

No-F/M/C/Store /2025-26/14230-34 Dated: 11/02/2026

Notice Inviting Bid

Bid for procurement of below mentioned items at SMS Medical College, Jaipur, are invited from interested bidders **as per schedule in NIT Notice**. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the Procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in,https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state; and SMS Medical College, Jaipur department website.

UBN SMS2526GLOB00665

DIPR/C/3328 PRINCIPAL & CONTROLLER

International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B)

TENDER NOTICE

International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from eligible and experienced **Construction Firms** for Construction of Additional Campus Facilities.

EOI Ref: **IIITB/EOI/2026/01**
Date: **20-Feb-2026**
EOI document available at: **www.iiitb.ac.in/tenders**
Last date for submission: **07-Mar-2026, 5:00 PM**
Contact: **cao@iiitb.ac.in | 080-2852-7627**

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E-mail ID: eephbgr@yahoo.co.in ; Ph.No.-(06652 - 234647)
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS - NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. ACEPHBGR 19/2025-26 Dt. 18.02.2026

01.	Name of the Work	: 06 No.
02.	Estimated Cost	: Approx. Rs.11.28 Lakhs to 688.91 Lakhs
03.	Period of Completion	: 1 Month to 12 Months
04.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 11.00 AM of dt.26.02.2026 to 5.00 PM of dt.12.03.2026
05.	Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	: 5 PM of dt. 12.03.2026
06.	Date & Time of opening of bids	: At 11.00 AM of dt.13.03.2026
07.	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid.	: The Superintending Engineer, Office Of The Superintending Engineer, Public Health Division, Balangir. At-Tulasinagar, Po/Dist-Balangir.Pin-767001, Odisha. Phone:-06652-234647; E-mail:-eephbgr@yahoo.co.in

Further details can be seen from the web site "https://tenders.ori.nic.in or www.tendersodisha.gov.in"

Addl. Chief Engineer, P.H.Division, Balangir.

13001/376/2526 OIPR-13001/13005/1/25-26/0002

MOSCOW

Ukrainian attack on Russian fertilizer plant kills four: governor

AP

A Ukrainian drone attack on a fertilizer plant in Russia's western Smolensk region killed four persons and injured 10 others, the region's governor said on Wednesday. The plant, just outside the Russian town of Dorogobuzh, lies around 290 km from the Ukrainian border. The plant was also attacked in December. AFP

WASHINGTON

U.S. Defense Dept. gives Anthropic Friday deadline to drop AI curbs

REUTERS

The U.S. Defense Department has given AI company Anthropic until Friday to agree to unrestricted military use of its technology or face being forced to comply under emergency federal powers. The conflict centres around Anthropic's refusal to let its Claude models be used for the mass surveillance of U.S. citizens. AFP

NEW YORK

Israel committed two-thirds of record press killings in 2025: CPJ

REUTERS

A record 129 journalists and media workers were killed worldwide in 2025, the Committee to Protect Journalists said on Wednesday, blaming Israel for two-thirds of the deaths. More than 60% of the 86 members of the press killed by Israeli fire in 2025 were Palestinians reporting from Gaza, it added. AFP

DHAKA

Bangladesh's new govt. re-equips President with press wing at office

Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's new government on Tuesday re-equipped President Mohammad Shahabuddin with a press wing at his office. Mohammad Sarwar Alam was re-appointed as the press secretary. The President's press wing was abolished by immediate past regime of interim chief Muhammad Yunus. PTI

U.S. is 'winning so much', says Trump in longest State of the Union speech

U.S. President delivers record-breaking speech lasting 108 minutes; he touts an economic boom, claiming strong growth, falling inflation, and rising incomes to boost chances in 2026 midterms; on tariffs, he insists foreign countries pay the costs

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

Donald Trump delivers his State of the Union address during a Joint Session of Congress at U.S. Capitol, in Washington on Tuesday . AFP

U.S. President Donald Trump declared during a marathon State of the Union on Tuesday that "we're winning so much" – insisting he'd sparked an economic boom at home and imposed a new world order abroad in hopes it can counter his sliding approval ratings.

Mr. Trump's main objective was convincing increasingly wary Americans that the economy is stronger than many believe, and that they should vote for more of the same by backing Republicans during November's midterm elections. In all, Mr. Trump spoke for a record 108 minutes, breaking – by eight minutes – the previous time mark from his address before a joint session of Congress last year.

The President largely avoided his usual bombast, only occasionally veering off-script – mostly to slam Democrats. As he did during such addresses in his first term, Mr. Trump relied on a series of surprise special guests to dramatically punctuate his message. They included U.S. military heroes and a former political prisoner released after U.S. forces toppled Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.

The President championed his immigration crackdowns and his push to preserve widespread tariffs that the Supreme Court just struck down. He drew applause only from Democrats while describing the high court's decision, which he called "an unfortunate ruling".

Mr. Trump vowed to plough ahead, using "alternative" laws to impose the taxes on imports and telling lawmakers, "Congressional action will not be necessary." Mr. Trump argued that the tariffs are paid by foreign countries, despite evidence that the costs are borne by American consumers and businesses. "It's saving our country," he said.

Mr. Trump struck a darker tone in large swaths of his speech to warn about the dangers posed by immigrants. He invited lawmakers from both parties to "protect American citizens, not illegal aliens".

On Tuesday, he also blamed his predecessor, former President Joe Biden, saying they were responsible for rising prices and health care costs.

Sri Lanka's ex-intel chief arrested over Easter attacks

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Sri Lankan soldiers look on inside the St Sebastian's Church at Katuwapitiya in Negombo in April 2019, following a bomb blast. AFP

Sri Lanka's Criminal Investigation Department on Wednesday arrested former intelligence chief Maj. Gen. Suresh Sallay in connection with the deadly Easter Sunday bombings of 2019 that killed around 270 people and injured several hundred, police said.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, a senior official confirmed that the arrest was made under Sri Lanka's Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), "based on adequate evidence". The official described the arrest of the former head of the State Intelligence Service (SIS) as "a major breakthrough" in the case, which has been ongoing for nearly seven years, even as victims' families relentlessly demand justice.

It is the first high-profile arrest in the case since President Anura Kumara Dissanayake assumed office in 2024. Securing justice for victims of the bombings was among his key pre-poll pledges.

On April 21, 2019, a network of nine suicide bombers – part of an Islamist radical group – carried out coordinated serial blasts targeting luxury hotels and churches in and around Colombo and the eastern city of Batticaloa on Easter Sunday.

The incident shook the relative peace on the island, a decade after the end of a gruesome civil war. Official documents and cases filed show a discrepancy in the death toll, with figures quoted ranging from 259 to 296.

Mr. Sallay was appointed head of the SIS in late 2019 after Gotabaya Rajapaksa won the presidential election in November that year, on a plank of national security. Mr. Sallay was the first military officer to be made chief of Sri Lanka's main intelligence agency. His name came under sharp focus in 2023 after a documentary by British broadcaster Channel 4 linked him to the Islamist bombers, based on a whistleblower's testimony. Mr. Sallay denied the allegations, and Sri Lanka's Ministry of Defence then said it "categorically refutes" the "outrageous allegations".

Human rights activist Ruki Fernando, who has been advocating for victims' families, said that if there was sufficient evidence, Mr. Sallay must be held criminally accountable following due process. "Those of us closely following proceedings have always felt that the ongoing case, the main one before the Special Trial-at-Bar [set up for extraordinary criminal proceedings], does not address all dimensions of the case. Suresh Sallay's arrest shows us that the case apparently goes beyond the network of suicide bombers," he told *The Hindu*. So far, the case includes over 23,000 charges and 25 accused.

The Special Trial-at-Bar has been hearing the sensitive case – the deadliest terror attack in Sri Lanka since the end of the war in 2009 – five days a week under tight security. Last week, Mr. Fernando took to social media to express concern about being prohibited from witnessing the court proceedings, citing logistical and security reasons.

'Fair trial'

While some, including victims' families, in Sri Lanka have expressed disappointment over the pace of the case, Mr. Fernando said: "It is very important that there's no undue delay, but it is equally important that there is no haste. Only a fair trial and adherence to due process will ensure that the rights of the accused and the aggrieved parties are not compromised."

Further, underscoring his "principled opposition" to the PTA, Mr. Fernando, who was himself arrested under the law in 2014, said: "The PTA does not allow for due process. That is precisely why many of us are opposed to the legislation, regardless of whether it is an activist or someone else arrested under the law."

'Myanmar military strike kills at least 17'

Agence France-Presse
YANGON

A Myanmar military air strike on a village market in the country's westernmost state killed at least 17 people, two local sources said on Wednesday.

The junta's air force hit the village of Yoe Ngu in Ponnagyun township, around 33 km northeast of state capital Sittwe on Tuesday.

Arakan Army statements listed the names of 17 "innocent civilians", including three children, killed in the strike

Treaty on Chagos deal paused for holding discussions with U.S., says U.K. Minister

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

A bill operationalising a U.K.-Mauritius treaty – which recognises the sovereignty of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelago – is currently on hold in the British Parliament while London holds discussions with Washington. The Indian Ocean islands are home to Diego Garcia, which houses a joint U.K.-U.S. military base.

The treaty, signed in May 2025, would transfer sovereignty over the archipelago to Mauritius, while the U.K. would be given a 99-year lease for Diego Garcia and pay Mauritius an average annual amount of GBP 101 million.

"We will bring that [legislation] back to Parliament at the appropriate time. We are pausing for discussions with our American counterparts," U.K. Foreign Office Minister Hamish Falconer said on Wednesday afternoon.

Trump's position

The treaty, negotiated over 11 rounds between Mauritius and the former Conservative U.K. government, **The treaty, signed in May 2025, would transfer sovereignty over the archipelago to Mauritius** has come into question after U.S. President Donald Trump, who had earlier backed the treaty, changed his position and publicly called for it to be reconsidered in recent weeks. As recently as last week, Mr. Trump said Diego Garcia should not be given away and suggested it may be needed in the event of a U.S. strike on Iran.

"Nothing in the U.K.-Mauritius deal has changed since the U.S. administration approved it," Mr. Falconer said.

The British government's objective was to ensure that the base in Diego Garcia was secure in the long-term, Mr. Falconer told the House of Commons.

When the Labour government took office, it found that the U.K.'s ability to maintain control of the base was under threat and therefore it was compelled to act, as per the Minister.

Sport

Bodo/Glimt scalps Inter, makes the last 16

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Killer blow: Evjen scores Bodo/Glimt's second against Inter. AP

Norway's Bodo/Glimt pulled off one of the most remarkable results in modern Champions League history on Tuesday, beating last season's runner-up Inter Milan 2-1 at the San Siro to reach the last 16 with a 5-2 aggregate triumph, while Newcastle United, Atletico Madrid and Bayer Leverkusen also went through.

Bodo/Glimt, the modest outfit from north of the Arctic Circle, was looking to follow up its stunning 3-1 win last week in the first leg of the knockout phase play-off tie.

Inter, the three-time European champion currently 10 points clear at the top of Serie A, was expected to pummel its visitor in an attempt to turn the tie around. But Bodo/Glimt survived at the back before finishing off the tie in the second half.

Bodo/Glimt is the first side from the country to go so far in Europe's elite club competition since Rosenborg reached the quarterfinals in 1997. It will face either Sporting or Manchester City next.

Newcastle followed its 6-1 win away to Qarabag in Azerbaijan in last week's first leg with a 3-2 victory in the return at St James' Park, as Eddie Howe's team ensured there will be six English clubs in the next round.

Atletico had been held to a 3-3 draw by Club Brugge in Belgium last week but it ran out a 4-1 winner in Tuesday's return to advance 7-4 on aggregate. Diego Simeone's team will play either Tottenham Hotspur or Liverpool in the next round.

Meanwhile, Leverkusen followed a 2-0 win away to Olympiacos in Greece last week with a 0-0 draw at home in the return. It now faces a huge test next against either Arsenal or Bayern Munich.

The results:

Atletico Madrid 4 (Sorloth 23, 76, 87, Cardoso 48) bt Club Brugge 1 (Ordonez 36). *Atletico won 7-4 on aggregate.*

Bayer Leverkusen 0 drew with Olympiacos 0. *Leverkusen won 2-0 on aggregate.*

Inter Milan 1 (Bastoni 76) lost to Bodo/Glimt 2 (Hauge 58, Evjen 72). *Bodo/Glimt won 5-2 on aggregate.*

Newcastle United 3 (Tonali 4, Joelinton 6, Botman 52) bt Qarabag 2 (Duran 50, Jafarguliyev 57). *Newcastle won 9-3 on aggregate.*

Mohith excels as India overcomes Australia to end its barren run

FIH PRO LEAGUE

Press Trust of India
HOBART

Great show: Mohith's heroics carried the day for India. FIH

The Indian men's hockey team ended a prolonged losing streak in the FIH Pro League upstaging World Australia 3-1 in a shoot-out after both sides were locked 1-1 on Wednesday.

It was a close battle in the first three quarters, which ended goalless but the win in their final game of the Hobart leg of the Pro League should be a confidence booster for the Indians.

Australia took the lead in the 49th minute through a penalty corner conversion by Jeremy Hayward. But the home team's joy was short-lived as Shilanand Lakra equalised with a fine field goal two minutes later.

In the shoot-out, Lakra, Maninder Singh and Vishnukant Singh scored for India, while Australia's lone goal was scored by Hayward as India custodian Mohith Shashikumar Honnenahalli produced a superb show under the post.

India is currently placed eighth in the nine-team competition with just four points from eight matches.

India will next play against the Netherlands and Germany in the Rotterdam leg, starting with a match against the hosts on June 21.

The result: Australia 1 (Jeremy Hayward 49) drew with India 1 (Shilanand Lakra 51). *India won 3-1 in shoot-out.*

FULLY RECOVERED

Raza will 100% play against India, confirms Zimbabwe's Burl

B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Ryan Burl confirmed that Zimbabwe skipper Sikandar Raza, who had an injury scare during the match against West Indies, is fit to play against India on Thursday. "Sikandar Raza is 100% playing. Good luck telling him that he's not going to play against India," Burl said at the MAC Stadium on Wednesday.

TEAM COMPOSITION

Kuldeep's inclusion at the expense of an all-rounder is difficult: Kotak

B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

India batting coach Sitanshu Kotak said it was difficult to include Kuldeep Yadav in the XI at the expense of batting depth. "I think it is difficult, because in T20s, you want batting till eight also. So, if you are thinking about a spinner at No. 8, then you will obviously think about an all-rounder. According to the situation, we will pick the XI."

SPECIAL PLAYER

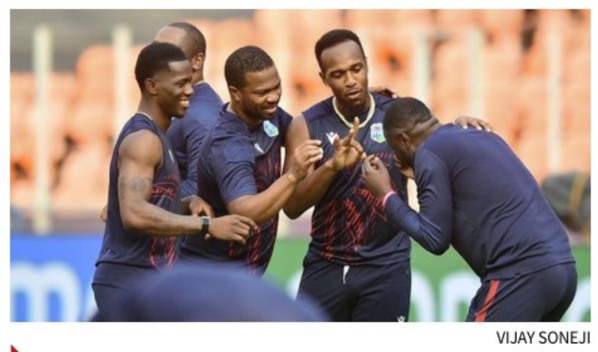
'I have to give a lot more credit to Muzarabani than he has received'

B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Zimbabwe all-rounder Ryan Burl heaped praise on lanky pacer Blessing Muzarabani. "I mean, being 6'9" does help. I have to give a lot more credit to Muzarabani than he has received, because he's been out for about four to six months before this tournament. I'm a lot happier knowing that he's in my team and not the opposition."

PROUD TEAM

Reifer believes WI has inspired its next generation of cricketers



VIJAY SONEJI

West Indies batting coach Floyd Reifer expressed confidence that the team's performance so far will inspire youngsters back home. "I think we have inspired the next generation of cricketers. Also, the people of the Caribbean are very happy with how we are playing, and obviously, we want to go for it in the tournament," said Reifer.

An off-colour Men in Blue in a battle for survival

The Suryakumar-led team seeks a quick turnaround as it faces Zimbabwe in a must-win clash; Samson expected to be drafted into the playing XI for the Super Eight contest

T20 WORLD CUP

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
CHENNAI

Shoulder to lean on: Varun interacts with bowling coach Morkel during training. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Under a blazing sun, Varun Chakaravarthy wheeled his arm over. The local star had a tough outing against South Africa in Ahmedabad, and along with his India mates, wants to sparkle against Zimbabwe in the T20 World Cup Super Eight Group 1 match at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium here on Thursday.

Optional nets being the theme on Wednesday, Varun and batter Tilak Varma were among the few who turned up for some pre-game training. The Men in Blue are in a must-win situation while they also strive to live up to their defending champions tag.

India's campaign has been a tale of a largely smooth cruise suddenly hitting a speed-breaker against the Proteas. Suryakumar Yadav's men would rather see the latest stumble as an aberration while they seek a second wind in a championship veering towards its final stretch.

A top-order featuring Sanju Samson may happen as the quest for a good start continues within the Indian ranks. Abhishek Sharma's sudden drought is bound to end at some point and the think-tank is publicly backing the opener. However, it is a fact that the host's batters are yet to fire in unison.

There have been individual efforts but in the days ahead, more emphatic runs are needed. Among the bowlers, Jasprit Bumrah has been incisive, and it remains to be seen if vice-captain Axar Patel will get back his berth. Against South Africa, India dished out its worst T20I performance in recent times, and a quick turnaround is needed.

Placed low in the Net Run Rate sweepstakes, India needs its batting and bowling arms to be in sync. A semifinal berth is up for grabs, but a lot will also hinge on the encounter involving the West Indies and South Africa on Thursday. If the Windies causes an upset, the curtains may well descend on Suryakumar's troops.

Zimbabwe's path too had triumph's flavour punctured by the drubbing from the West Indies. Sikandar Raza's men ambushed Australia and co-host Sri Lanka. Brian Bennett (180) has been among the runs and seamer Blessing Muzarabani has 11 wickets in his kitty.

India may remember the banana-peel effect that Zimbabwe dished out in the 1999 World Cup in England. Once a pedigreed unit that had Dave Houghton, and the Flower brothers, Andy and Grant, Zimbabwe is battling for relevance. India, though, would prefer the African nation being subservient.

New Zealand sends Lanka packing

Abhishek Saini
COLOMBO

Shining brightest: Santner provided the perfect finish while Rachin's four-for sealed the win. AP & AFP

Matt Henry silenced a full house at the R. Premadasa Stadium here on Wednesday when he breached Pathum Nissanka's gate with a nip-backer and castled him off the first ball of Sri Lanka's chase of 169.

The host never really recovered from the morale-crushing fall of its in-form batter and eventually crashed out of the T20 World Cup with a 61-run loss to New Zealand, its second straight defeat in the Super Eight.

Failed recovery

After Sri Lanka lost two early wickets, Kusal Mendis and Pavan Rathnayake attempted a recovery.

But the end of their laborious 21-run third-wicket partnership off 36 balls sent Sri Lanka into a free fall.

The twin dismissals helped left-arm spinner Rachin Ravindra achieve career-best figures of four for 27, with Dasun Shanaka and Dushan Hemantha also becoming his victims.

Kamindu Mendis' reverse sweeps off Ish Sodhi and Cole McConchie came too late to really swing the contest in Sri Lanka's favour.

He eventually pulled a half-tracker from Mitchell Santner to deep midwicket and departed for a 23-ball 31 as Sri Lanka ended at just 107 for eight.

The game slipped from Sri Lanka's grasp in the last four overs of the first innings, where it leaked 70 runs to the unfancied pair of Santner (47, 26b, 2x4 , 4x6) and McConchie (31 n.o., 23b, 3x4, 2x6).

Their seventh-wicket partnership got New Zealand 84 off 47 balls, salvaging it from a precarious 84 for six.

Sri Lanka's capitulation was unexpected after its spinners controlled the tempo of the New Zealand innings.

Maheesh Theekshana and Dunith Wellalage extracted grip and turn to bring the Kiwis crashing from 75 for two to 84 for six. But they had little inkling that Santner and McConchie were about to break free and cast a pall over their evening.

The scores:

New Zealand 168/7 in 20 overs (Rachin Ravindra 32, Mitchell Santner 47, Luke McConchie 31 n.o., Maheesh Theekshana 3/30, Dushmantha Chameera 3/38) bt Sri Lanka 107/8 in 20 overs (Kamindu Mendis 31, Matt Henry 2/3, Rachin Ravindra 4/27).

Toss: Sri Lanka; **PoM:** Rachin.

All good: India's batting coach feels there is no tension over Tilak's returns. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Including Samson in the mix has been discussed: Kotak

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
CHENNAI

Batting coach Sitanshu Kotak said that the Indian team, after its 76-run loss to South Africa, has been discussing Sanju Samson's inclusion in the playing XI to break the left-heavy top-order [Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan and Tilak Varma].

"There can be changes, yes. It goes without saying that we discussed [team combination]. The opposition is bowling off-spin because our openers and No. 3 are lefties. I don't think that there is any problem there either. But because we lost the last game and we have lost a wicket in the first over [often], any team would think [along those lines]," Kotak said on Wednesday, on the eve of India's Super Eight game against Zimbabwe at the MAC Stadium.

On Abhishek's recent rut, the 53-year-old said: "I never liked overthinking about one individual as we are playing with two all-rounders and six batters."

When asked if there was panic in the ranks, Kotak was quick to point out India's superb record in T20Is.

"There is no tension of Tilak or Abhishek, or even of us losing one match. We shouldn't analyse that [SA loss] too much," he said.

"All the matches are must-win for us. If you want to go and win the World Cup, you expect to beat all the sides you play."

On the Men in Blue's batting approach, Kotak added: "In T20s, if you worry too much about temperament and not play your shots freely, there will be other [problems]. Only if you lose a couple of wickets, you have to try and play normal cricket for the next six to eight balls."

Rinku update

Kotak said that Rinku Singh, who missed Tuesday's practice, was expected to reach Chennai on the eve of the match.

"Rinku's father wasn't well, so he went back. I think he is coming back this evening [Wednesday]".

Pressure does funny things to teams: Burl

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
CHENNAI

That India and Zimbabwe desperately need a win is not lost on Ryan Burl. In fact, the Zimbabwe all-rounder wants his team to channel the energy and not get bogged down by the added pressure when the two sides meet in the ICC T20 World Cup Super Eight game at the MAC Stadium here on Thursday.

"It's obviously a must-win game for us. It's also a must-win game for India. There's a lot at stake here, being a World Cup game," Burl said on Wednesday.

"Playing India in India is a challenge in itself. They obviously got home-ground advantage, but there is the added pressure of both teams needing to win tomorrow's [Thursday's] match. Pressure does funny things to teams."

Key match-up

Asked about Indian batters' recent struggles against finger spinners, Burl said: "It's something that we have taken into account. We've done our homework, and it's something that we would be silly to ignore going into the game."

South Africa, West Indies hope to inch closer to the semifinals

S. Dipak Ragav
AHMEDABAD

In a format like T20 where despair could turn into delight and vice versa in a matter of a few overs, recent form might not mean much. Yet, in high-stakes ICC tournaments, momentum can play a key role.

It is what South Africa and the West Indies, the only remaining unbeaten teams of the ongoing T20 World Cup, will look to maintain when they meet in a pivotal Super Eight Group 1 clash at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Thursday. Both sides are fresh off emphatic victories – the Proteas defeated India by 76 runs at this venue, while the Caribbean outfit thrashed Zimbabwe by 107 in Mumbai – and the winner of this tie could potentially seal a semifinal berth.

The Aiden Markram-led South Africa showed tenacity in its previous match, counter-punching its way out of trouble after being reduced to 20 for three. David Miller and Dewald Brevis led the recovery before Tristan Stubbs gave the final flourish. The bowlers then picked apart the Indian batting line-up with surgical precision.

The morale-boosting win and familiarity with the conditions – it will be Proteas' fifth match at this ground in this edition – should give the 2024 edition's runner-up the edge. At the same time, the Rainbow Nation must be wary of the two-time champion. The West Indies, led by Shai Hope, appears to be in contention for the big prize again, a scenario not many would have predicted at the start of the tournament.

Its strength lies in its batting, which packs a punch. The line-up is stacked with power-hitters, as evidenced by the fact that the West Indies leads the sixes chart (55) in the showpiece. The afternoon match will be played on a red-soil surface that offers true bounce and produces big totals. In such a case, it could play into the hands of Hope's men.

While both teams aim to extend their winning streaks, the contest will also be keenly followed by India, as the outcome could influence the Men in Blue's path to the last-four stage.

Game-changer: Hetmyer is in fine nick, having decimated Zimbabwe in the previous game. VIJAY SONEJI

SUPER EIGHT

Today's matches

Ahmedabad, 3 p.m.	Chennai, 7 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD	HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 29	Played: 13
West Indies 15 | South Africa 14	India 10 | Zimbabwe 3

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & JIOHOTSTAR

The victory over India boosted our confidence: Maharaj

S. Dipak Ragav
AHMEDABAD

South Africa spinner Keshav Maharaj felt that the win against India had given his team a huge dose of confidence.

Energy and buzz

"Coming back after the win against India, there was a real sort of energy and buzz to our camp. I mean, you probably beat the best side in the competition if you look at it," said Maharaj.

"But we're not getting carried away. We still know that there's a lot of cricket to be played in this tournament. So, [we are] dusting ourselves off and doing things that we can do better from that game while focusing on the positives."

A highlight of the Proteas' victory was their recovery from a precarious start, and the 36-year-old said it showed the team's spirit.

"I think it speaks to the character within the line-up, and that's a huge thing for us. In previous World Cups, we never crossed over those small moments. If the character is strong in such situations, it propels us to go further on in this tournament," said Maharaj.

INBRIEF

Jain on top in all-India inter-varsity men's basketball

Jain defeated Mumbai 75-71 in the final to emerge the all-India inter-University men's basketball champion, organised by University of Mumbai.

Indian deaf cricket team wins ADCA T20 Asia Cup

India defeated Sri Lanka by six wickets to win the inaugural Asian Deaf Cricket Association (ADCA) Asia Cup T20 tournament in Cuttack on Wednesday. Sai Akash was adjudged Player-of-the-Final for his 14-ball 27 and two wickets. Sri Lanka's Gimadu L. Malkam was declared the best batter as well as Player-of-the-Series for scoring 196 runs while compatriot Gihan Lasidu D' Silva was named the best bowler for taking 10 wickets in the competition.

BMSCE gets the better of GAT by 18 runs

BMSCE defeated GAT by 18 runs in the 24th Dr. M.S. Ramaiah Memorial inter-engineering college cricket tournament in Bengaluru.

The scores: BMSCE 172 in 24.4 overs (Ankith 75) bt GAT 154/8 in 27 overs.

Indian shuttlers struggle in first round of German Open

Indian shuttlers struggled in the opening round of the German Open Super 300 at Mulheim an der Ruhr on Wednesday. Top seed Christo Popov of France defeated Kiran George of India 21-10, 22-20 in a men's round-of-32 match while Tharun Mannepalli went down to Wang Tzu Wei of Chinese Taipei 18-21, 18-21 in the same stage. In women's singles, Malvika Bansod lost to Beiwen Zhang of USA 21-19, 9-21, 19-2 and Tasnim Mir was defeated 9-21, 14-21 by top seed Wang Zhi Yi of China.

Good day for Indians at Dutch Jr. International badminton

Indians made a positive start as multiple men's singles players progressed to the next round at the Dutch Junior International badminton at Haarlem on Wednesday.

The results: Dev Ruparelia bt Rokas Lesinskas (Ltu) 21-15, 21-18; Pranit Somani bt Christopher Kunckel (Den) 21-13, 21-23, 21-11; Akhil Reddy Bobba bt Jarno Deters (Ger) 21-11, 21-9; Samuel Tamang bt Nils Barion (Ger) 21-9, 21-9; Aanayan Borah bt Milan Zeisig (Ger) 22-20, 21-19.

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: Star Sports Khel & JioHotstar, 9.30 a.m.

Men's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 3 p.m.; **India vs Zimbabwe,** 7 p.m.

ISL: Sony Sports Ten 2 & FanCode, 7.30 p.m.

Europa League: Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 11.15 p.m.; Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3, 5 & LIV, 1.15 a.m. (Friday)

Super-efficient Jammu & Kashmir batters make Karnataka toil

On a rain-affected second day, the visitor, led by half-centuries from Dogra, Wadhawan and Lotra, surges to a massive 527 for six; with the first-innings lead becoming crucial, the host has heavy lifting to do in the remainder of the title decider

Team effort: Dogra weathered a spurt of bouncers and combined well with Wadhawan, centre, while Lotra, right, kept his head about him to score his first fifty of the season. K. MURALI KUMAR

RANJI TROPY FINAL

N. Sudarshan
HUBBALLI

Jammu & Kashmir put Karnataka through the wringer again as it reached 527 for six at stumps on day two of the 2025-26 Ranji Trophy final at the KSCA Rajnagar Stadium here on Wednesday.

It wasn't a display of unqualified control and superiority but more like how weaver ants are super-efficient in their team work.

There were half-centuries for skipper Paras Dogra (70, 166b, 8x4), Kanhaiya Wadhawan (70, 109b, 9x4) and Sahil Lotra (57 batting, 93b, 7x4) as J & K added 243 runs to its overnight total before a combination of bad light and a drizzle brought an end to the proceedings 40 minutes before scheduled close. The morning began under partially cloudy skies and the previous night's rain appeared to have rendered the outfield a tad sluggish.

Keeping it tight

The Karnataka bowlers kept it tight, not allowing a boundary for nearly 40 minutes, as V. Vyshak bowled four straight maidens.

Though Abdul Samad pulled Vyshak for a four, it was far from pressure-releasing.

Two quick wickets

Centurion Shubham Pundir (121, 247b, 12x4, 2x6) and Samad (61, 104b, 6x4, 1x6) fell in the span of six balls, with the former caught at square-leg off Vidyadhar Patil and the latter edging Prasidh Krishna behind.

Dogra, who had retired hurt on Tuesday, came in at 307 for four and the Karnataka pacers resumed their ploy of peppering him with bouncers. The close-in fielders joined in by being chirpy and even succeeded in provoking Dogra into head-butting substitute K.V. Aneesh – albeit, ever-so-slightly – at silly-point. But the experienced man soon cleared the fog that had settled over his head and combined for 73 runs with Wadhawan to take J & K to 380 for four at lunch.

Similar to the first day, Karnataka's intensity dropped at an inopportune time, as Dogra and Wadhawan collected a series of fours through cover, backward-point and wide of the slip fielders.

However, Wadhawan fell trying one too many, as K.L. Rahul at slip latched on to a dab after a juggle. Dogra's day, though, continued to be eventful when a bouncer from Vidyadhar ricocheted off his helmet, hit the stumps but couldn't dislodge the bails.

Luck finally ran out when a defensive stroke to Shreyas Gopal ended with the cherry crashing into his stumps after bouncing off the ground.

Amidst this chaos, Lotra kept his head, reaching an unbeaten 57, his first half-century of the season. A few more runs on Thursday will leave Karnataka with a mountain to climb in a final where the first-innings lead is seemingly all important now.

The scores: Jammu & Kashmir — 1st innings: Qamran Iqbal c Rahul b Prasidh 6, Yawer Hassan c Rahul b Prasidh 88, Shubham Pundir c sub (Aneesh) b Vidyadhar 121, Paras Dogra b Shreyas 70, Abdul Samad c Kruthik b Prasidh 61, Kanhaiya Wadhawan c Rahul b Shikhar 70, Sahil Lotra (batting) 57, Abid Mushtaq (batting) 20; Extras (b-14, lb-16, w-4): 34; Total (for six wkts. in 156 overs): 527.

Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-157, 3-303, 4-307, 5-417, 6-471.

Karnataka bowling: Vidyadhar 29-2-104-1, Vyshak 31-10-60-0, Prasidh 29-7-90-3, Shreyas 33-2-130-1, Shikhar 32-1-112-1, Karun 2-1-1-0.

A headbutt, an apology, and an all is well: Dogra and Aneesh have an eventful day

N. Sudarshan
HUBBALLI

One of the defining images of the 2006 FIFA World Cup was that of French captain Zinedine Zidane headbutting Italian Marco Materazzi in the final in Berlin.

A poor man's version of the same played out on Wednesday in the Ranji Trophy final here when Jammu & Kashmir skipper Paras Dogra clashed with Karnataka's K.V. Aneesh. Zidane's act was raw and savage. Dogra's, coming as it did in the 'gentlemen's game', only involved a not-so-forceful, helmet-to-helmet touch.

Zidane was handed a three-match ban and was asked to spend three days doing community service. Dogra, at the most, will cop a hefty fine.

Not on! Agarwal stepped in after Dogra clashed with Aneesh. K. MURALI KUMAR

Cricket has seen a fair share of shoulder barges - there was one between Kanhaiya Wadhawan and V. Vyshak too on Wednesday - and stare downs. But a headbutt is as scarce as a hen's teeth.

The incident occurred in the 14th over of the morning when Dogra got a streaky boundary past gully after awkwardly fending off a short-pitched delivery from Prasidh Krishna. Something that substitute Aneesh uttered from silly-point appeared to have irked Dogra, and the burly man went charging at the Karnataka player, who is 16 years and eight months his junior.

Mayank Agarwal, 35 and until recently the Karnataka skipper, stepped in and seemingly warned Dogra that a headbutt had no place in cricket.

The umpires then spoke both to Dogra and the home captain Devdutt Padikkal to defuse the tension, and Dogra was even seen putting up his hand apologetically.

There was no confirmation if the apology was accepted immediately, but both Dogra and Wadhawan said that all was well.

"It was nothing; it just happened in the heat of the moment," Dogra told reporters after play. "It's not a big thing. It's all settled now."

Big or small, it was certainly rarest of rare.

Kishan jumps to fifth among batters

ANI
NEW DELHI

India's wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan has climbed up three ranks to the fifth spot in the men's batting rankings, while all-rounder Shivam Dube has moved to seven among all-rounders in the ICC T20I rankings issued on Wednesday.

Dube (up two spots) and Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi (up three places to eighth) made some good ground via the latest update. In five innings in the ongoing World Cup, Dube has scored 158 runs at an average of 31.60, with a strike rate of 154.90, including a half-century, which came against the Netherlands last week. He has also taken four wickets at an average of 19.50.

Ishan Kishan. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Kishan (up by three places) and Dewald Brevis (up 10 rungs to ninth) also made ground inside the top 10 for batters.

Kishan has scored 176 runs in five innings at an average of 35.20 and a strike rate of 193.50, with two fifties, including an unbeaten 77* against Pakistan.

Impressive teams in the fray for Best Club/State of the Year honours

Sports Bureau

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) finally clinched its maiden Indian Premier League (IPL) title, ending years of heartbreak and transforming the team's legacy from perennial underachiever to champion.

During its successful run to the title, RCB also became the first team in IPL history to win all (7/7) of its away league-stage matches in a single season.

Meanwhile, Vidarbha reaffirmed its standing as a domestic powerhouse with a commanding run to the Ranji Trophy 2024-25 title, its third overall and first since the 2018-19 season.

In the Women's Premier League, Mumbai Indians continued its domination by claiming its second title in three years. On the football field,

Mohun Bagan Super Giant reinforced its reputation by doing the double – winning the Indian Super League (ISL) Shield and ISL Cup.

It became only the second club to complete the domestic double after Mumbai City FC.

Dabang Delhi K.C. produced an excellent showing to secure its second Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) title in the 12th season of the tournament.

Under the stewardship of former title-winning captain Joginder Narwal, Delhi became only the third team in PKL history to win multiple titles.

Memorable first

It was a historic first for Bengaluru Torpedoes, which won its maiden Prime Volleyball League crown after beating Mumbai Meteors in straight sets in the final.

All of the above have been nominated for the coveted Best Club/State of the Year honour at the eighth edition of the *Sportstar* Aces Awards, presented by Amul and co-presented by Casagrand.

Vote for your favourite nominee by scanning the QR code below until February 28.

Additionally, there are 19 Jury Awards, which will be deliberated on by an elite panel comprising Sunil Gavaskar, Abhinav Bindra, M. M. Somaya, Viswanathan Anand, Anjali Bhagwat, and Aparna Popat.

There will also be a separate Chairperson's Award for Sports for Social Good.

Cheating in chess is made out to be bigger than what it actually is: Gukesh

Press Trust of India
PRAGUE

Cheating in chess is being portrayed as a bigger problem than what it actually is, says world champion D Gukesh, who does not support Russian Grandmaster Vladimir Kramnik's crusade against the menace that affects the online game.

Kramnik, a former world champion, has sued the International Chess Federation (FIDE) for defamation after the world body lambasted his allegations of cheating against late American GM Daniel Naroditsky and Czechia's David Navara.

Naroditsky's death became a major flashpoint in international chess as, in his last video stream, he talked about being under mental stress due to Kramnik's allegations.

Championspeak: Gukesh feels that there should be more harmony and peace in the chess fraternity. FILE PHOTO

However, a recent medical report ruled his death to be accidental, caused by a cardiac issue.

"Obviously, I am against any kind of unfair or unethical play. I have never done that and I really hope nobody does that. It's a kind of problem that we have been seeing lately," Gukesh said in the pre-tournament press conference of the Prague Chess Festival here.

"I think people are making it (cheating) a bigger problem that what it actually is. Specifically about Kramnik's allegations, I don't support most of it. I think there should be more harmony and peace in the chess world," he added in his measured response to the issue.

Several chess players, including India's Nihal Sarin and Arjun Erigaisi along with world number one Magnus Carlsen, have spoken out against Kramnik but the Russian has remained defiant.